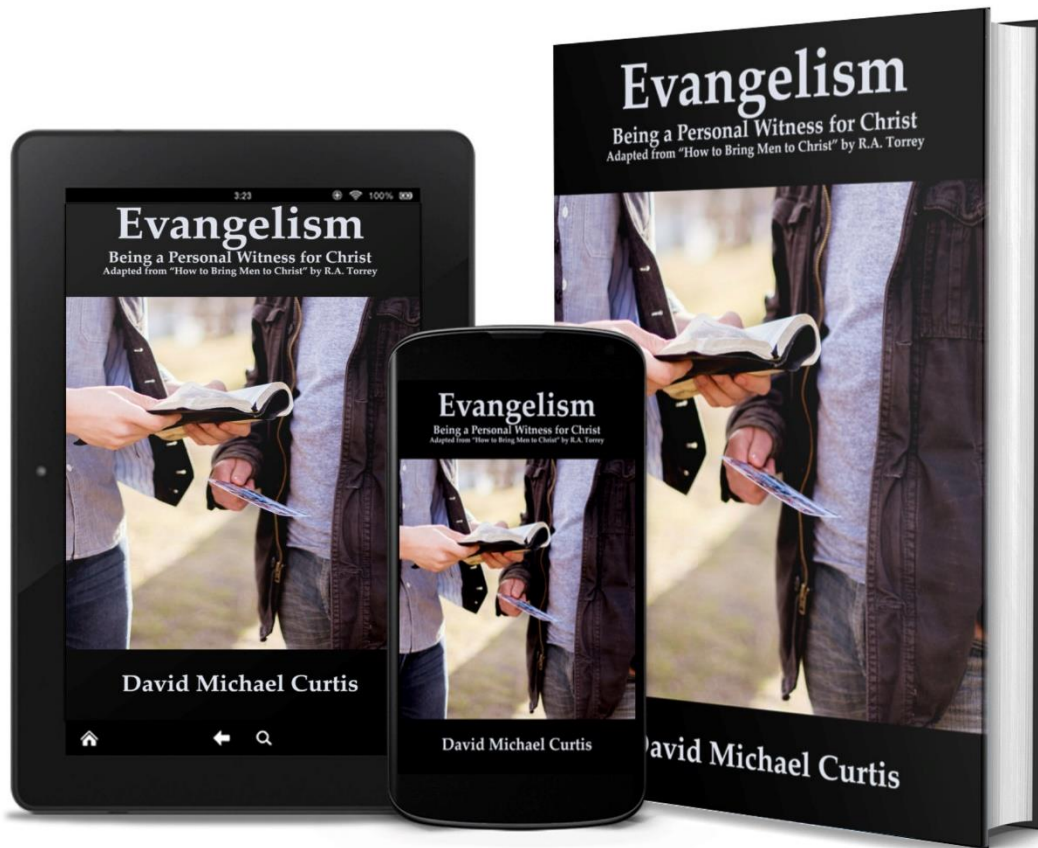




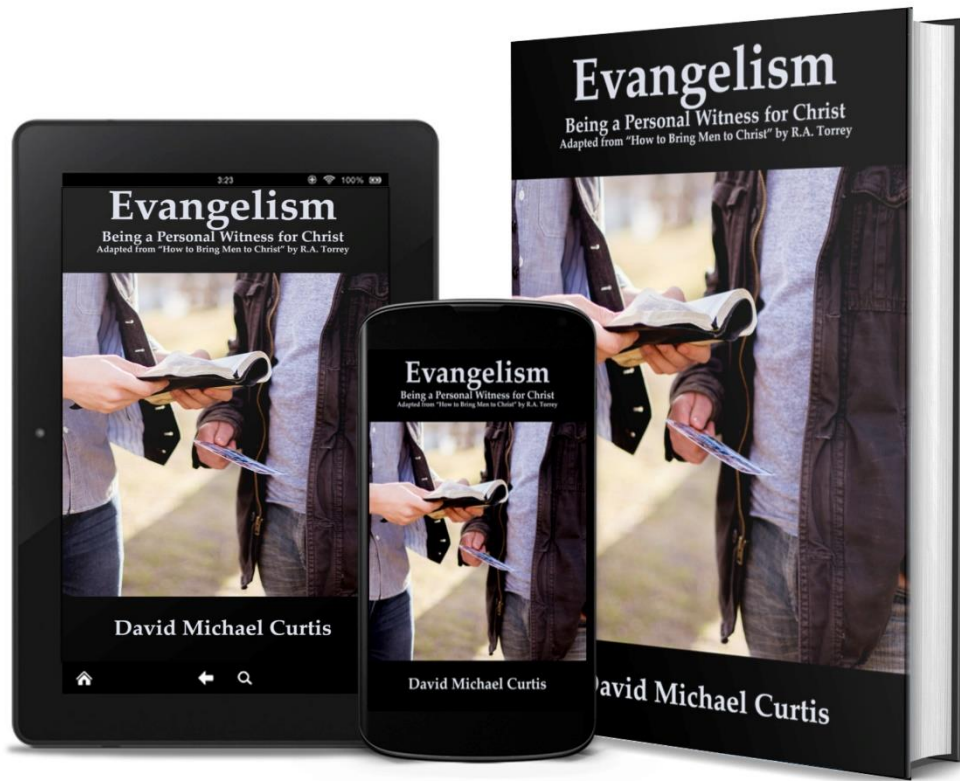
# Evangelism—Being a Personal Witness for Christ

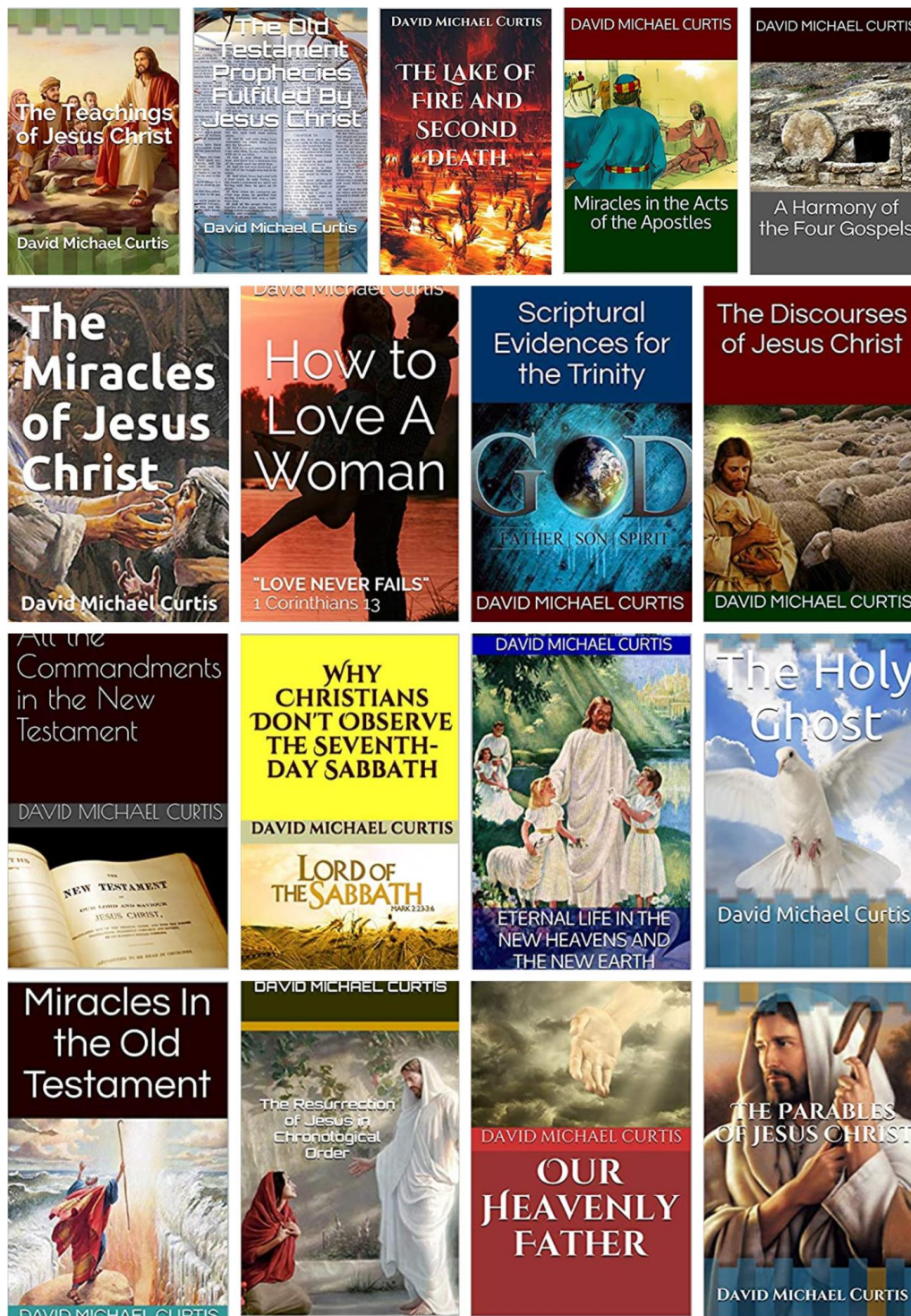
*Adapted from “How to Bring Men to Christ” by R.A. Torrey*

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By David Michael Curtis

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| <p>Apostasy, Sins unto Death</p> <p>Baptism Saves</p> <p>Christ, Titles &amp; Worship of</p> <p>Church, One Universal</p> <p>Death—Immortal Souls</p> <p>Election &amp; Predestination</p> <p>Eternal Life</p> <p>Evangelism</p> <p>Faith, Once Delivered</p> <p>False Prophets</p> <p>Forgiveness</p> <p>God, the Father</p> <p>God, the Holy Ghost</p> <p>God, the Son</p> <p>God, the Trinity</p> <p>Good Works, Salvation Through</p> <p>Hell—Eternal Fire</p> <p>Idolatry</p> <p>Marriage &amp; Family</p> <p>Michael, &amp; His Angels</p> <p>Musical Instruments</p> <p>Original Sin</p> <p>The Gospel of Jesus Christ</p> <p>The Law of God</p> <p>The Lord's Supper</p> <p>The Prayer Book of Scripture Promises</p> <p>The Second Coming of Christ</p> <p>The Seven-Year Tribulation</p> <p>&amp; more....</p> | <p>Baptism Saves</p> <p>Church, Catholic-One Universal</p> <p>Death—Immortal Souls</p> <p>Election &amp; Predestination</p> <p>Eternal Life</p> <p>Evangelism</p> <p>Faith, Once Delivered</p> <p>False Prophets</p> <p>Forgiveness</p> <p>God, the Father</p> <p>God, the Holy Ghost</p> <p>God, the Son</p> <p>God, the Trinity</p> <p>Good Works, Salvation Through</p> <p>Hell—Eternal Fire</p> <p>Marriage &amp; Family</p> <p>Mass, Transubstantiation</p> <p>Michael, &amp; His Angels</p> <p>Mortal Sins</p> <p>Musical Instruments</p> <p>Original Sin</p> <p>Prayer Book</p> <p>The Gospel of Jesus Christ</p> <p>The Law of God</p> <p>The Pope</p> <p>The Second Coming of Christ</p> <p>Venerating Saints</p> <p>Venerating Statues</p> <p>&amp; more....</p> |

## About the Author, *David Michael Curtis (1974-Present)*



I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I have been baptized, and I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sins and the gift of eternal life.

I was born in Roseburg, Oregon. I became a Christian at age 19 in 1993. Over the next seven years, I wore out the bindings of eleven KJV Bibles. Using my own money, I conducted my first evangelistic crusade in 1999. I taught the Bible on the radio five days a week on K.O.R.E. Springfield, OR (2000-2002). I sold KJV Bibles and children's character-building books door to door in Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Kansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York (1999-2007).

I was a volunteer chaplain for a maximum-security prison in Northern California (2005-2007). Since 2001, I have owned/managed 75+ Christian websites. From 2008 to 2010, I was the General Manager for Harvestime Books (an international Christian publishing house). I have also served the church as an elder, a new believer's class teacher, and a vacation Bible school teacher.

### *A Helpful Illustration Describing this Topical Bible Study eBook*

The tallest trees in the world are the Redwoods in Northern California. The Redwoods share a single network of roots; this root system connects **all** the Redwoods trees. This means the Redwoods Forest is also the largest single-living organism in the world.

Imagine that each doctrine of the Bible is a giant Redwood tree supported by 30-40 roots (Bible verses). Examine the neighboring doctrines that share a root system (Bible verses) with that doctrine. Understand that under its surface, all the doctrines are connected by one massive root system within the Bible. My books *show how the various doctrines interconnect and share the same roots, supporting and depending on each other.*

My books use the Bible as its own interpreter, providing all the verses on whichever doctrine is being studied, topically arranged, without commentary. Christ is the only Teacher you need. He promised that you would know the truth, and the truth would set you free.



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## **A Story From Earlier Today, Sharing Christ**

*By David Michael Curtis*

*August 30, 2024*

Dear Friends,

During today's delivery, I dropped off groceries to a family in a nice neighborhood. I made brief, friendly small talk.

The customer repeatedly said, "**You are so nice.**" I saw this as an opportunity to share Christ with them.

I told them, "**I am a Christian.**" Faith in Christ made me this way. They reacted positively to my words.

Next, I said, "**I am a dirty, rotten sinner, and all I did was hear the gospel and believe it, and Christ changed my life.**"

They responded very positively to what I shared. I had already delivered all the groceries, but I asked, "**Would you like me to share a word before I go?**" In a very friendly and positive way, they said, "**Definitely!**"

So, I continued, keeping everything on point. Before I tell you what I said next, I need to point out that it really helps if you share your own testimony. Obviously, I could not go into a lot of detail, so I jumped right into the part of my testimony that I thought would help me emphasize what I really wanted to share.

**"I used to be a Seventh-day Adventist. I am no longer one now. What I learned from that time in my life is being super religious didn't change me."**

**"Let me share what changed me." "**

**The book of Hebrews repeats that Christ died for us on the Cross, ONCE."**

**"Why is emphasizing that Christ only died ONCE for us important?"**

**"His death cannot be repeated."**

**"We can only HEAR about his death on the Cross. When we hear this message from the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we are hearing it directly from eyewitnesses."**

**"We either believe, or we don't, and if we believe in Jesus Christ, the Bible promises that our sins are forgiven, and Christ gives us the gift of eternal life."**

I wish you could have seen the lights turned on. This family totally understood on a level that my simple words could not have achieved. God opened their eyes. That is all I can say. The entire conversation only lasted two minutes, and I was back in the van, returning to the grocery store to earn more money.

How did I close the conversation? I encouraged them to start today by getting out their Bibles, reading the four gospels, and believing in them. They responded, **"I think I will."**

Most times, witnessing is a brief encounter.

**HERE IS THE GOAL:** encourage them to read the four gospels and believe in Jesus Christ. It's not about what I say to them. It's about encouraging them to read the Holy Bible and trusting Jesus Christ.

Towards the end, they thanked me, even calling me a "prophet" whom God sent to "share His word" (most people seldom encounter people who talk to them about God). I immediately said, **"No, I am not a prophet; I am just David."**

Then I said, **"God inspired the apostles who wrote the four gospels. Read them and believe them."**

I thanked them for choosing Instacart, and that was that.

May God's grace and peace be with you.  
In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

**Mr. David Michael Curtis**

## **Conditions Of Success in Bringing Men to Christ.**

There are certain general conditions, the fulfillment of which is essential to real success in bringing men to Christ. These conditions, fortunately, are few and simple and such that anyone can meet.

### ***1. Be A Thoroughly Converted Person.***

Jesus said to Peter, “When thou art converted strengthen thy brethren.” He was in no position to help his brethren until he, after his cowardly denial, had turned again to his Lord with his whole heart. If we would bring others to Christ we must turn away from all sin, and worldliness and selfishness with our whole heart, yielding to Jesus the absolute lordship over our thoughts, purposes, and actions. If there is any direction in which we are seeking to have our way and not letting Him have His way in our lives, our power will be crippled and men lost that we might have saved. The application of this principle to the numerous questions that come up in the life of every young Christian as to whether he should do this or that, each individual can settle for himself if Christ’s honor and not his pleasure is uppermost in his mind and if he looks honestly to God to guide him.

### ***2. A Longing for the Salvation of the Lost.***

If we have no love for souls, our efforts will be mechanical and powerless. We may know how to approach men and what to say to them, but there will be no power in what we say, and it will not touch the heart. But if, like Paul, we have “great heaviness and unceasing pain in our hearts” for the unsaved, there will be an earnestness in our tone and manner that will impress the most careless. Furthermore, if we have a love for souls, we will be on the constant watch for opportunities to speak with the unsaved and will find opportunities on the street, in the store, in the home, on the cars, and everywhere that would otherwise have entirely escaped our notice.

But how can one get a love for souls? This question is easily answered. First of all, a love for souls, like every other grace of Christian character, is the work of the Holy Spirit. If then we are conscious that we do not have that love for souls that we should have, the first thing to do is to go to God and humbly confess this lack in our lives and ask Him by His Holy Spirit to supply that which we so sorely need, and expect Him to do it.

**1 John 5:14-15.**

¶ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

**Philippians 4:19.**

But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In the second place, Jesus Christ had an intense love for souls, and intimate and constant companionship with Him will impart to our lives this grace which was so prominent in His.

**Matthew 23:37.**

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

**Luke 19:10.**

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

In the third place, feelings are the outcome of thoughts. If we desire any given feeling in our lives, we should dwell upon the thoughts which are adapted to produce that feeling. If any saved person will dwell long enough upon the peril and wretchedness of any man out of Christ and the worth of his soul in God's sight as seen in the death of God's Son to save him, a feeling of intense desire for that man's salvation is almost certain to follow. In the fourth place, reflection upon our own ruined and unhappy condition without Christ and the great sacrifice that Christ made to save us is sure to fill our hearts with a desire to bring others to the Saviour we have found.

***3. Have A Working Knowledge Of The Bible.***

**Ephesians 6:17.**

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The word of God is the instrument God uses to convict of sin, to reveal Christ, and regenerate men. If we would work together with God, the Bible is the instrument upon which we must rely and which we must use in bringing men to Christ. We must know how to use the Bible so as

1. To Show Men Their Need for A Saviour,
2. To Show Them Jesus, As the Saviour They Need,
3. To Show Them How to Make Jesus, Their Saviour,
4. To Answer the Objections That Stand in Their Way Of Accepting Christ.

A large part of the following pages will be devoted to imparting this knowledge.

#### **4. *Must Pray Much.***

Solid work in soul-winning must be accompanied by prayer at every step.

##### **1. We must pray for God to lead us to the right persons to approach.**

God does not intend that we speak to everyone we meet. If we try to do it, we will waste much valuable time in speaking to those whom we cannot help, that we might have used in speaking to those to whom we could have done much good. God alone knows the one to whom He intends us to speak, and we must ask Him to point him out to us, and expect Him to do it.

*Acts 8:29.*

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

##### **2. Pray What To Say To Those To Whom He Leads Us.**

After all our study of the passages to be used in dealing with the various classes of men, we shall need God's guidance in each specific case. Every experienced worker will testify to the many instances in which God has led them to use some text of Scripture that they would not otherwise have used but which proved to be just the one needed.

##### **3. Pray For God To Give Power To What We Say.**

We need not only a message from God but power from God to send the message home. Most workers have to learn this lesson by humiliating experiences. They sit down beside an unsaved man and reason and plead and bring forth texts from the word of God, but the man does not accept Christ. At last, it dawns upon them that they are trying to convert the man in their own strength and then they lift a humble and earnest prayer to God for his strength, and God hears and in a short time this "very difficult case" has settled the matter and is rejoicing in Christ.

##### **4. Pray To God To Carry On The Work After.**

After having done that which seems to have been our whole duty in any given instance, whatever may have been the apparent issue of our work, whether successful or unsuccessful, we should commit the case to God in prayer. If there is anything the average worker in this hurrying age needs to have impressed upon him, it is the necessity of more prayer. By praying more we will not work any less and we will accomplish vastly more.



#### **5. Must Be “Baptized With The Holy Ghost.”**

“Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you,” said Jesus to his disciples after having given them the great commission to go out and bring men to Himself. The supreme condition of soul-winning power is the same today: “after that, the Holy Ghost comes upon you.” A later chapter will be given to a study of what “the Baptism of the Holy Ghost” is and how any Christian can obtain it.

## **How To Bring the Indifferent or Careless to Christ.**

One of the classes of men most frequently met with is 'The Indifferent or Careless.' There are several ways of dealing with them. One is to show them their need for a Saviour. A good verse to use for this purpose is.

**Romans 3:23.**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Get the person with whom you are dealing to read the verse, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Then say to him: "Who has sinned?" "All." "Who does that include?" and keep up the questioning until he says, "It includes me." Then, ask him what it is that he has done, and keep at it until he comes out plainly and says: "I have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This is likely to make him feel his need for a Saviour. Another good verse to use is.

**Isaiah 53:6.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

After the verse has been read, ask him who it is that has gone astray, and by a series of questions, bring him to the point where he will say, "I have gone astray." Then, ask him what kind of a sheep one is that has "gone astray" and hold him to it until he says, "a lost sheep." "What are you then?" "Lost." Then, ask him what the Lord has done with his sin, and hold him to that point until he sees the truth of the verse, that God has laid his sin on Jesus Christ. Now, he is in a position for you to put to him the direct question: "Will you accept this Savior upon whom the Lord has laid your sin?" Still another verse to use is.

**Psalms 130:3.**

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

When the verse has been read, ask him, "If the Lord marked iniquities could you stand?" In dealing with this class of men I use Matthew 22:37-38 more frequently than any other passage of Scripture.

**Matthew 22:37-38.**

Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.**

Before having the person read the verse, it is well to ask him, “Do you know that you have committed the greatest sin that a man can commit?” In all probability, he will answer, “No, I have not.” Then, ask him what he thinks is the greatest sin a man can commit. When he has answered, say to him, Now let us see what God considers the greatest sin.

Read the verses and ask him, “What is the first and greatest of the commandments?” Then, ask him, “What then is the greatest sin?” He will soon answer that the violation of the first and greatest of the commandments must be the greatest sin. Ask him if he has kept that commandment, and when he confesses, as sooner or later he must, that he has not, ask him what he is guilty of in the sight of God and hold him to that point until he admits that he is guilty of committing the greatest sin that a man can commit.

An illustration from life may help to make the use of this verse clear. I was dealing with a very bright young man who had no deep sense of sin nor his need for a Saviour. When I asked if he was a Christian, he said promptly that he always had been, but there was something in his manner that showed that he had no clear understanding of what it meant to be a Christian. I then asked if he had been born again, and he did not even understand what I was talking about. I next asked if he knew he had committed the greatest sin that a man could commit, and he answered, “No, I never did in my life.” I asked what he considered the greatest sin, and he replied, “Murder.” I took my Bible and opened it to Matthew 22:37-38 and asked him to read the verses, which he did.

**Matthew 22:37-38.**

Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.**

I then asked him, “If this is the first and greatest commandment, what must be the greatest sin?” He answered, “I suppose the breaking of that commandment.” I then asked if he had always kept that commandment, if he had always loved God with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his mind. If he had always put God first in everything. He replied that he had not. I then asked him, “Of what then are you guilty?” The Spirit of God carried the text home, and with the greatest earnestness, he replied, “I have committed the greatest sin that a man can commit, but I never saw it before in my life.”

Another verse that can be used with effect is.

**John 8:34.**

Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

After the man has read the verse, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin," ask him, "What is the person who sins?" Then, ask him if he sins. Then, put to him the direct question, "What are you then," and hold him to it until he says, "the servant of sin." Then, ask him if he does not desire to be delivered from that awful bondage. Hold him to this point until he sees his need for Jesus Christ as a Deliverer from the slavery of sin. The Holy Spirit has used Isaiah 57:21 for the salvation of many men who have been indifferent to the claims of the Gospel.

**Isaiah 57:21.**

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

After the verse, "There is no peace, saith my God to the wicked," has been read slowly, thoughtfully, and earnestly, ask him who says this. Then, ask him if it is true; then, ask him if it is true in his case. "Do you have peace?"

One night, a careless young man was going out of one of our tents in Chicago, and as he passed by me, I took him by the hand and said to him, "You need the Saviour." He wanted to know why I thought so. I replied, "Because you have no peace." He said, "Yes, I have." "No, you have not." He then asked me how I knew that. I told him God said so and quoted the above passage. He tried to laugh it off and say the verse was not true in his case. Then he became angry and went out of the tent in a rage, but the next night, I saw him kneeling with one of our workers in prayer, and when he arose from his knees, the worker came over and said he wished to speak with me. As I approached him, he held out his hand and said, "I wanted to beg your pardon for what I said last night; what you said was true; I didn't have peace." I asked him if he had now accepted the Saviour. He said he had.

**Galatians 3:10.**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

After the one with whom you are dealing has read the verse, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse." Ask him the question, "What is a person that does not perfectly obey everything written in the book of the law?" When he answers, "Cursed." Ask him if he has perfectly obeyed everything written in the book of the law. When he replies, "No, I have not." Put to him the direct question. "What are you then?" Hold him to that point until he says. "I am under the curse." In most cases, the inquirer will be ready at once to be led to the thirteenth verse of the same chapter, which shows how he may be saved from that curse under which he rests.

**Galatians 3:13.**

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**Romans 6:23.**

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ask, "What are the wages of sin?" Then, "who earns those wages?" Then, "Are you a sinner?" "What wages then have you earned?" "Do you wish to take your wages?" John 3:36 is a verse that can be used similarly.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Ask the question, "Upon whom is it that the wrath of God abides?" Then, "Do you believe on the Son?" "What then abides upon you?" Then, put the decisive question, "Are you willing to go away with the wrath of God abiding upon you?" The following verses set forth in a most impressive way the awful consequences of sin.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

**John 8:24.**

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

**Revelation 20:15.**

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**Revelation 21:8.**

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**Revelation 14:10-11.**

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

If these verses are used, they should be read with the deepest earnestness and solemnity and dwelt upon until the person with whom you are dealing realizes their terrible import.

***Showing what Jesus has done for him.***

There is another way to arouse a man from his indifference, and that is by showing what Jesus has done for him. I have found Isaiah 53:5-6 more effective for this purpose than any other passage in the Bible.

**Isaiah 53:5-6.**

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

An incident from life will illustrate its use. A lady had asked prayers for her daughter, a young woman about twenty years of age. At the close of the services, I stepped up to the daughter and asked her if she would not accept Jesus Christ as her Savior at once. She stamped her foot in anger and said, "My mother should have known better than to do that; she knows it will only make me worse."

I asked her if she would not sit down for a few minutes, and as soon as we were seated, I opened my Bible to this passage and began to read, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

I did not comment on the verses whatsoever, but the Spirit of God carried them home, and tears began to roll down the cheeks of the young woman. She did not come out as a Christian that night but did shortly afterward. It is good to use these verses whenever it is possible to get the inquirer to change the pronoun from the plural to the singular. "He was wounded for my transgressions; he was bruised for my iniquities, etc." John 3:16 can be used similarly.

**John 3:16.**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I was talking one night to one who was most indifferent and hardened. She told me the story of her sin with seemingly very little sense of shame, and when I urged her to accept Christ, she refused. I put a Bible in her hands and asked her to read this verse. She began to read, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,” and before she had finished reading the verse, she had broken into tears, softened by the thought of God’s wondrous love for her. 1 Peter 2:24 is a verse of similar character.

**1 Peter 2:24.**

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Ask the inquirer whose sins they were that Jesus bore in His own body on the tree, and hold him to it until he says, “My sins.” The following verses are useful in bringing out the detail of how Christ has suffered for us.

**1 Peter 1:18-19.**

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**Luke 22:44.**

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

**Matthew 27:46.**

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

There is still another way to arouse indifferent persons, and that is by showing them that the one damning sin is that of which they are guilty—the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:28-29 is very effective for this purpose.



**Hebrews 10:28-29.**

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The following verses can also be used.

**John 16:9.**

Of sin, because they believe not on me;

**John 3:18-20.**

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

**Acts 2:36.**

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Frequently, you will meet someone who is not willing to sit down and let you deal with him in this deliberate way. In that case, the only thing to do is to look up to God for guidance and power and give him some pointed verses in great earnestness, such as the following verses, and leave it for the Spirit of God to carry the truth home to his heart.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**Isaiah 57:21.**

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

A passing shot of this kind has often resulted in the salvation of a soul. The passages given above can be wisely used with one who is not altogether indifferent or careless but who does not have a sufficiently deep sense of sin and needs to be ready to accept the Gospel.

## **How To Bring Those That Do Not Know How to Christ.**

There is a very large class of persons who are anxious to be saved but do not know how. It is not difficult to lead this class of persons to Christ. Perhaps no other passage in the Bible is more used for this purpose than Isaiah 53:6.

### **Isaiah 53:6.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

It makes the way of salvation very plain. Read the first part of the verse to the inquirer, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." Then ask, "Is that true of you," and when he has thought it over and said "yes," then say to him, "Now let us see what God has done with your sins," and read the remainder of the verse, "And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." "What, then, is it necessary for you to do to be saved?" Very soon he can be led to see that all that he must do is to accept the sin-bearer whom God has provided.

Some years ago, I noticed in a meeting a white-haired man who did not stand up with the Christians. At the close of the service, I walked down to him and said, "Are you not a Christian?" He said he was not. I was sure he was interested, so I asked him the direct question, "Would you become a Christian tonight if I would show you the way?" and he replied that he would. We sat down together, and I opened my Bible to Isaiah 53:6 and read the first part of the verse, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way." I then said to him, "Is that true of you?" and he answered, "Yes." "Now," I said, "let us read the rest of the verse, 'And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.'"

"What has the Lord done," I said, "with your sins?" He thought a moment and said, "he has laid them on Christ." "What then," I said, "is all that you have to do to be saved?" and he replied quite promptly, "Accept him." "Well," I said, "will you accept him tonight?" He said, "I will." "Let us then kneel and tell God so." We knelt, and I led in prayer, and he followed in a very simple way, telling God that he was a sinner but that he believed that He had laid his sins upon Jesus Christ, and asking God for Christ's sake to forgive his sins.

When he had finished, I asked him if he thought God had heard his prayer and that his sins were forgiven, and he said, "Yes." I then asked him if he would begin to lead a Christian life at once, set up the family altar, and openly confess Christ before the world, and he replied that he would. Some months after, I met his pastor and made inquiries about him and found that he had gone to his home in a distant village, set up the family altar, and united with the church together with his son, the only remaining member of the family out of Christ. All that this man was waiting for was for someone to make the way of salvation plain to him. I sometimes put it this way when using this verse.

There are two things that a man needs to know, and one thing he needs to do is to be saved. What he needs to know is, first, that he is a lost sinner, and this verse tells him that; second, that Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour, and this verse tells him that. What he needs to do is to accept this all-sufficient Saviour whom God has provided.” John 1:12 brings out this thought very clearly.

**John 1:12.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**Isaiah 55:7.**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Acts 16:31.**

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**John 3:16.**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:14, compared with Numbers 21:8 and the following verses, can often be used with good effect.

**John 3:14.**

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

**Numbers 21:8.**

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

When they are used you should lead the inquirer to see just what the serpent-bitten Israelite had to do to be saved—that he had simply to look at the brazen serpent lifted up upon the pole—then show him that the sin-bitten man has to do simply the same thing—look at Christ lifted up on the Cross for his sins. Romans 1:16 is another excellent verse to use.

**Romans 1:16.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

It makes the way of salvation very clear. You can ask the inquirer whom it is, according to his verse, that the Gospel saves, and he will see that it is “everyone that believeth.” Then ask him, “What then is all that is necessary for one to do to be saved,” and he will see that it is simply to believe. Then ask him “believe what,” and the answer is “the Gospel.”

The next question that naturally arises is, what is the Gospel? This is answered by:

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4.**

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

These verses show what the Gospel is, “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; that he was buried and that He rose the third day according to the scriptures” and this is what he must believe to be saved. He must believe from his heart that Christ died for his sins and that he rose again. Then ask the inquirer, “do you believe that Christ died for your sins? do you believe that he rose again?” If he says that he does, ask him if he will make this a heart faith and get down and ask God for Christ’s sake, to forgive his sins and believe he does it because he says so, and then trust in the living Saviour to save him day by day from the power of sin. Romans 10:9-10 also makes the way of salvation clear to many minds where other verses fail.

**Romans 10:9-10.**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 makes it, if possible, more simple still.

**Romans 10:13.**

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This shows that all that a man has to do to be saved is to “call upon the name of the Lord.” You can ask the inquirer “Are you ready now and here to get down and call upon the name of the Lord for salvation and to believe that God saves you because he says he will?” The way of salvation can be made plain by the use of:

**Exodus 12:7,13,23.**

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

These verses show that it was the blood that made the Israelites safe and just so it is today the blood that makes us safe, and when God sees the blood he passes over us. The only thing for us to do is to get behind the blood. Then show the inquirer that the way to be behind the blood is by simple faith in Jesus Christ. Luke 18:10-14 is exceedingly useful in showing what a man may have and yet be lost (the Pharisee) and what a man may lack and yet be saved (the Publican) and that all that a man has to do to be saved is simply to do as the Publican did, that is take the sinner's place and cry to God for mercy and then he will go down to his house justified.

**Luke 18:10-14.**

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

This passage can be used in the following manner to make the meaning more clear. Ask the inquirer, “Which one of these two (the Pharisee or the Publican) went down to his house justified?” Then ask him, “What did the Publican do that the Pharisee did not do, that brought him the forgiveness of his sins while the Pharisee went out of the Temple unforgiven?” When he studies the passage he will soon see that what the Publican did was simply to take the sinner's place before God and cry for mercy and that as soon as he did this he was “justified” or forgiven. Then you can ask him, “What is all that you must do to find forgiveness?” Then ask him, “Will you do it

now and here?” and when he has done so ask him if he believes in God’s word and if he is going down to his house justified. What saving faith is, is beautifully illustrated by:

**Luke 7:48-50.**

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**

The fiftieth verse tells us that this woman had saving faith. Now ask the inquirer, “What was the faith she had,” and show him that her faith was simply such faith that Jesus could and would forgive her sins, that she came to him to do it. This is saving faith. Galatians 3:10-13 also makes the way of salvation very simple.

**Galatians 3:10-13.**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.

The tenth verse shows the sinner’s position before accepting Christ—“under the curse.” The thirteenth verse shows what Christ has done—has been made a curse for us. What the sinner had to do was, evidently, to accept Christ.

# How to Bring Those with Difficulties to Christ.

A very large number of people we try to lead to Christ are anxious to be saved and know-how but they face difficulties they consider impossible.

## *1. "I am too great a sinner."*

The following verse meets this fully. One Sunday morning, a man who had led a wild and wandering life and who had recently lost \$35,000 and been separated from his wife said to me in response to my question why he was not Christian, "I am too great a sinner to be saved." I turned at once to:

### **1 Timothy 1:15.**

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

He quickly replied, "Well, I am the chief of sinners." "Well," I said, "that verse means you then." He replied, "It is a precious promise." I said, "Will you accept it now?" and he said, "I will." Then I said, "Let us kneel and tell God so," and we knelt. He confessed his sins to God and asked God, for Christ's sake, to forgive him his sins. I asked him if he had accepted Christ, and he said he had. I asked him if he believed that he was saved, and he said he did. He took an early opportunity of confessing Christ. He left the city in a short time, but I was able to follow him. He became a most active Christian, working at his business day times but engaged in some form of Christian work every night of the week. He was reunited with his wife, adopted a little child out of an orphan asylum, and had a happy Christian home.

Luke 19:10 is also a very useful passage to use in dealing with this class of men; especially useful when a man says, "I am lost." You can say, "I have a passage intended expressly for you. If you mean what you say, you are just the man Jesus is seeking.

### **Luke 19:10.**

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Romans 5:6-8 is a very effective passage. I stopped a man one night as he was hurrying out of a meeting. Laying my hand on his shoulder I said "Did you not hold your hand up tonight for prayers?" He said "yes." I said, "Why then are you hurrying away? Do you know God loves you?" He replied, "You do not know who you are talking to." "I do not care who I am talking to but I know God loves you." He said: "I am the meanest thief in Minneapolis." I said "If you are the meanest thief in Minneapolis, then I know God loves you," and I opened my Bible to:



**Romans 5:6-8.**

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

“Now,” I said, “If you are the meanest thief in Minneapolis, you are a sinner, and this verse tells that God loves sinners.” The man broke down and went into another room with me and told me his story. He was just out of confinement for crime; he had started that very night to commit what he said would have been one of the most daring burglaries ever committed in the city of Minneapolis; with his two companions in crime, he was passing a corner where he happened to hear an open-air meeting going on and stopped a few minutes to hear and despite the protests and oaths of his companions stayed through the meeting and went with us to the Mission. After telling me his story, we knelt in prayer. Through tears, he cried to God for mercy, having been led by God’s precious promise to believe that God loved a sinner even as vile as he.

**Matthew 9:12-13.**

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

**Romans 10:13.**

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**John 3:16.**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Isaiah 1:18.**

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**1 John 4:14.**

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**John 2:1-2.**

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

**Isaiah 44:22.**

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

**Isaiah 43:25.**

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 51:14 are especially useful in dealing with men who have committed murder.

**Isaiah 1:18.**

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**Psalm 51:14.**

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

Never tell anyone that his sins are not great. It is well sometimes to say to these men, “Yes, your sins are great, greater than you think, but they have all been settled” and show them:

**Isaiah 53:6.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**1 Peter 2:24.**

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

A woman once came to me in great agitation. After many ineffectual attempts, she was at last able to unburden her heart. Fourteen years before, she had killed a man and had borne the memory of the act upon her Conscience until it had almost driven her crazy. When she told the story to another Christian and me, we turned to Isaiah 53:6. After reading the verse very carefully to her, I asked her what the Lord had done with her sin. After a few moments of deep and anxious thought, she said, "He has laid it on Christ," I took a book in my hand. "Now," I said, "let my right hand represent you, and my left hand Christ, and this book your sin." I laid the book upon my right hand, and I said: "Where is your sin now?" She said, "On me." "Now," I said, "what has God done with it?" She said, "Laid it on Christ," and I laid the book over on the other hand. "Where is your sin now?" I asked. It was long before she could summon the courage to answer, and then, with a desperate effort, she said, "On Christ." I said, "Then is it on you any longer?" Slowly, the light came into her face, and she burst out with a cry, "No, it is on Him, it is on Christ." The following verses are also helpful texts in dealing with this class of men.

**John 1:29.**

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**Acts 10:43.**

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**Hebrews 7:25.**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

***2. "I can't hold out," or "I am afraid of failure."***

This next verse is useful in showing that we are not to keep ourselves but are "kept by the power of God."

**1 Peter 1:5.**

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

This verse shows that the safety of the one who accepts Christ does not depend upon his "holding out" but upon the keeping power of the Father and the Son.

**John 10:28-29.**

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

This next verse shows that it is Christ's business and not ours to keep that which is entrusted to him and that he can do it.

**2 Timothy 1:12.**

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

This verse is also helpful.

**Isaiah 41:10,13.**

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

This verse shows that whether we can keep from falling or not, Christ can keep us from falling.

**Jude 24.**

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

These verses are also good texts to use.

**2 Chronicles 32:7-8.**

Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

**Romans 14:4.**

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3.**

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

This next verse is especially useful when one is afraid that some great temptation will overtake him and he will fall.

**1 Corinthians 10:13.**

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**3. *"I am too weak."***

With such a person, use:

**2 Corinthians 12:9,10.**

And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Ask him "where is it that Christ's strength is made perfect?" When he answers "in weakness," tell him "then the weaker you are in your own strength the better." This next verse shows that however weak we may be, we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us.

**Philippians 4:13.**

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

This verse will show that God knows all about our weakness and will not permit us to be tempted above our strength.

**1 Corinthians 10:13.**

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**4. *"I cannot give up my evil ways or bad habits."***

This verse will show them that they must give them up or perish.

**Galatians 6:7-8.**

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

This verse will show them that they can give them up in Christ's strength.

**Philippians 4:13.**

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

It is an excellent plan to point the one who fears that he cannot give up his bad habits, to Christ, as a risen Saviour.

**1 Corinthians 15:3,4.**

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

A man once came to me and said: "I come to you to know if there is any way I can get power to overcome my evil habits." He told me his story; he had been converted in childhood but had come to Chicago, fallen in with evil companions and gone down, and now could not break away from his sins. I said to him: "You know only half the gospel, the gospel of a crucified Saviour. Through trusting in the crucified Saviour you found pardon. But Jesus Christ is also a risen Saviour.

**Matthew 28:18.**

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

He has the power to give you victory over your evil habits. Do you believe that?" He said, "yes." "You trusted," I continued, "in the crucified Christ and found pardon, did you not?" "Yes," he replied. "Now," I said, "will you trust the risen Christ to save you from the power of your sins?" "Yes, I will." "Let us kneel then, and tell him so." We knelt and talked it all over with the Saviour. When he arose his very countenance was changed. "I am so glad I came," he said. Sometime after I received a letter from him telling me how he found constant victory through trusting in the risen Christ.

### ***5. "I will be persecuted if I become a Christian."***

Never tell anyone that he will not be persecuted, but show him from the following verses that persecution is the only path to Glory.

#### **2 Timothy 2:12.**

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

#### **2 Timothy 3:12.**

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

#### **Matthew 5:10-12.**

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

#### **Mark 8:35.**

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

#### **Acts 14:22.**

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Show them from the following verse that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:18.**

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Show them from the following verses that it is a privilege to be persecuted for Christ's sake.

**Acts 5:41.**

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

**1 Peter 2:20-21.**

For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

This next verse is useful in showing them where to look for victory in persecution.

**Hebrews 12:2-3.**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

**6. *"It will hurt my business,"***

"I can't be a Christian in my present business."

Point such a one to:

**Mark 8:36.**

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

This will show him that it is better to lose his business than to lose his soul. After this thought has been sufficiently impressed upon his mind, show him this next verse which contains God's promise that if we put God and His kingdom first, that He will provide for all our real temporal needs.



**Matthew 6:32-33.**

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

These verses are also very effective passages to use with this class.

**Matthew 16:24-27.**

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

**Luke 12:16-21.**

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**Luke 16:24-26.**

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

**7. “Too much to give up.”**

This next verse will show them that they had better give up everything than to lose their soul.

**Mark 8:36.**

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

These verses will show them that what they give up is nothing compared with what they get.

**Philippians 3:7-8.**

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

**Psalms 16:11.**

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The following verses will show them that God will not ask them to give up any good thing; in other words, that the only things God asks them to give up are the things that are hurting them.

**Psalms 84:11.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

**Romans 8:32.**

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

A young woman once refused to come to the Saviour saying, "There is too much to give up." "Do you think God loves you?" I answered. "Certainly." "How much do you think he loves you?" She thought a moment and answered, "Enough to give his son to die for me." "Do you think, if God loved you enough to give his son to die for you, he will ask you to give up anything it is for your good to keep?" "No." "Do you wish to keep anything that it is not for your good to keep?" "No." "Then you had better come to Christ at once." And she did. The following verses will show them how worthless are the things which they are trying to keep.

**1 John 2:17.**

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

**Luke 12:16-21**

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow

my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

### ***8. “The Christian life is too hard.”***

Say to the inquirer, “Let me show you from God’s word that you are mistaken about the Christian life being hard.” Then turn him to the following verses and show him that the Christian life is not hard but exceedingly pleasant.

**Matthew 11:30.**

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**Proverbs 3:17.**

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

**Psalms 16:11.**

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

**1 John 5:3.**

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Then turn him to this next verse, and show him that it is the sinner’s life that is hard.

**Proverbs 13:15.**

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

### ***9. “I will lose my friends if I take Christ.”***

This next verse will show them the consequence of yielding to the fear of man and the security of the one who trusts in the Lord.

**Proverbs 29:25.**

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 13 will show them the result of holding on to their companions.

Proverbs 13:1-25 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke. A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame. Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke. The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard. Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly. A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health. Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil. He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed. A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment. He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

The following verse will show the blessedness of giving up evil companions.

**Psalms 1:1.**

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

This verse shows how much better companionship one gets than he loses by coming to Christ.

**1 John 1:3.**

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**10. “My heart is too hard.”**

The following verse will show them that though their hearts are as hard as stone, that will make no difference because God will give them a new heart.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27.**

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**11. “I have no feeling.”**

Ask the inquirer what kind of feeling he thinks he must have before he comes to Christ. If it is the peace of which Christians speak, show him from the following verses that this feeling is the result of accepting Christ and confessing Him, and that he cannot expect it until he accepts and confesses Christ.

**Galatians 5:22.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

**Ephesians 1:13.**

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

**Acts 5:32.**

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

**1 Peter 1:8.**

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

**Matthew 10:32.**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

If the feeling which he thinks he must have is the feeling that he is a sinner, then show him from this next verse that it is not the feeling that we are sinners that God demands, but a turning away from sin.

**Isaiah 55:7.**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Or, from these verses that God does not ask us to feel that we are sinners but to confess that we are sinners and trust in Christ as a Saviour.

**Acts 16:31.**

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**John 1:12.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The following verse will show the inquirer that all the feeling he needs is a desire for salvation.

**Isaiah 55:1.**

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Revelation 22:17.**

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

It is oftentimes well, however, with this class of inquirers to show them the passages for “The Indifferent” until they do feel that they are sinners.

## **12. *"I am seeking Christ but cannot find Him."***

This next verse shows that when we seek Him with the whole heart we shall find him.

### **Jeremiah 29:13.**

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Speaking with a woman one evening in an after-meeting she said to me, "I have been seeking Christ for two years and cannot find Him." I replied, "I can tell you when you will find him." She looked at me in surprise and I turned to Jeremiah 29:13, and read "And ye shall seek me, and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart." "There," I said, "that shows you when you will find Christ. You will find him when you search for him with all your heart. Have you done that?" After a little thought, she answered "No." "Well, then," I said, "let us kneel right down here now." She did this and in a few moments, she was rejoicing in Christ. You can point one who has this difficulty to the following verses.

### **Luke 15:1-10.**

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

### **Luke 19:10.**

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

These passages show that Jesus is seeking the sinner and you can say, "if you are really seeking Christ it will not take a seeking Saviour and a seeking sinner very long to find each other."

### **13. “I cannot believe it.”**

In most cases, when someone says this, the real difficulty that prevents them from believing is their unwillingness to give up sin. Here are some good passages to use with someone in this situation:

**John 5:44.**

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

**Isaiah 55:7.**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

When using the latter passage, emphasize to the person that all God asks of them is to turn away from sin and turn to Him.

### **14. “I have committed the unpardonable sin.”**

“I have sinned away the day of grace,” or “God won’t receive me.”

The people who honestly say this are, as a rule, about the most difficult class to deal with of any that you will meet. This next verse is a great text to use with them, for it shows that Jesus will receive anyone who will come to him.

**John 6:37.**

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Hold him continually to that point, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out,” and if they keep saying, “He won’t receive me,” repeat the text, looking to the Spirit of God to carry the truth home. Many an utterly despondent soul has found light and peace through this verse in God’s word. The following is also useful as it shows that anyone who will, can have the water of life freely.

**Revelation 22:17.**

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The following shows that anyone who desires salvation can have it.



**Isaiah 55:1.**

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

The next verse shows that no matter how great a man's sins may be still here is pardon.

**Isaiah 1:18.**

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

The following verses demonstrate that "whosoever" will believe upon Christ will find pardon and eternal life.

**Acts 10:43.**

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**John 3:16.**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The following shows that anyone, no matter who or what he is, who will "call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Romans 10:13.**

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

It is well sometimes to turn to the following and show the inquirer just what the unpardonable sin is and what its results are.

**Hebrews 6:4-6.**

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

**Matthew 12:31-32.**

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Matthew 12:31-32 shows that it is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost and puts it squarely to him, "Have you ever blasphemed against the Holy Ghost?" Hebrews 6:4-6 shows that the difficulty is not in God's unwillingness to forgive but in man's unwillingness to repent. Anyone concerned about his salvation evidently has not committed the unpardonable sin nor sinned away his day of grace. A little instruction along this line is frequently all that is needed.

**15. "It is too late."**

When an inquirer says this, it is frequently well to use the following and tell him that God says it is just the time.

**2 Corinthians 6:2.**

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

The following is useful as showing that even at the last hour Jesus will hearken to the sinner's cry.

**Luke 23:39-43.**

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

The following will show that His will is that none should perish, but that He is delaying the judgment that He may save as many as will come.

**2 Peter 3:9.**

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The following is an especially helpful passage as it says “Even in the latter days” if thou turn to the Lord he will be merciful.

**Deuteronomy 4:30,31.**

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

The following verses can alone be used here.

**Isaiah 1:18.**

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**Revelation 22:17.**

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

## How To Bring Those Who Entertain False Hopes to Christ.

### *1. Those who expect to be saved by their righteous lives.*

These persons are easily known by such sayings as:

- “I am doing the best I can.”
- “I do more good than evil.”
- “I am not a great sinner.”
- “I have never done anything very bad.”

The following is an excellent passage to use, for it shows that all those who trust in their works are under the curse of the law and that there is no hope on the ground of the law for anyone who does not **“continue in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”**

#### **Galatians 3:10.**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

The following is also useful.

#### **James 2:10.**

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

The following verses are very effective by showing that by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God’s sight.

#### **Galatians 2:16.**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

#### **Romans 3:19-20.**

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

All these passages show the kind of righteousness God demands and that no man's righteousness comes up to God's standard, and that if a man wishes to be saved he must find some other means of salvation than by his own deeds.

**Matthew 5:20.**

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

It is sometimes well in using these passages to say to the inquirer: "You do not understand the kind of righteousness that God demands or you would not talk as you do. Now let us turn to His word and see what kind of righteousness it is that God demands." There is another way of dealing with this class, by the use of such passages as the following verses.

**Luke 16:15.**

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

**Romans 2:16.**

In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

**1 Samuel 16:7.**

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

These passages show that God looks at the heart. Hold the inquirer right to that point. Every man when brought face to face with that, must tremble because he knows that whatever his outward life may be, his heart will not stand the scrutiny of God's eye. No matter how self-righteous a man is, we need not be discouraged for somewhere in the depths of every man's heart is the consciousness of sin and all we have to do is to work away until we touch that point. Every man's Conscience is on our side. Matthew 22:37,38 can be used when a man says "I am doing the best I can, or doing more good than evil." Say to him, "You are greatly mistaken about that; so far from doing more good than evil, do you know that you have broken the first and greatest of God's laws?" Then show him the passage.

**Matthew 22:37-38.**

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

The next verses show that the one thing that God demands is faith and that without that it is impossible to please God.

**Hebrews 11:6.**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**John 6:29.**

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

The next verse shows that unbelief in Christ is the greatest sin.

**John 16:9.**

Of sin, because they believe not on me.

The following shows that the question of eternal life depends solely upon a man's accepting or rejecting of Jesus Christ.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

These passages show that the sin which brings the heaviest punishment is that of treading underfoot the Son of God. Before using this latter passage, it would be well to say, "You think you are very good, but do you know that you are committing the most awful sin in God's sight which a man can commit?" If he replies, "No," they say "Well let me show you from God's word that you are;" then turn to this passage and read it with great solemnity and earnestness.

**Hebrews 10:28-29.**

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God,

and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

## ***2. Those who think “God is too good to damn anyone.”***

When anyone says this, you can reply, “We know nothing of God’s goodness but what we learn from the Bible, and we must go to that book to find out the character of God’s goodness. Let us turn to:

### **Romans 2:2.**

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

### **Romans 2:4-5.**

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

Having read the verses, you can say something like this, “Now, my friend, you see that the purpose of God’s goodness is to lead you to repentance, not to encourage you in sin and when we trample upon his goodness, then we are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” The following verses will show the man that however good God may be that he will reject all who reject His Son.

### **John 8:21.**

Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

### **John 8:24.**

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

### **John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The following verses show them that it is not so much God who damns men as men who damn themselves despite God's goodness because they will not come to Christ and accept the life freely offered. You can say "God is not willing that any should perish and he offers life freely to you, but there is one difficulty in the way. Let us turn to the following verse, and see what the difficulty is."

**John 5:40.**

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Then read the passage: "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life," and say, "My friend here is the difficulty, you won't come; life is freely offered to you but if you will not accept it, you must perish." The following verse show how the "good" God deals with persons who persist in sin.

**2 Peter 3:9-11.**

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

**Ezekiel 33:11.**

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

**2 Peter 2:4-6.**

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.

**2 Peter 2:9.**

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.



Sometimes this last passage can be effectively used in this way: “You say God is too good to damn anyone. Now let us see what God Himself says in his word.” Then turn to the passage and read:

**Luke 13:3.**

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Repeat the passage over and over again until it has been driven home.

### ***3. Those who say, “I am trying to be a Christian.”***

This next verse will show them that true Christianity is not “trying” to be a Christian, “trying” to live a better life, or “trying” to do anything that God asks of us, but simply to receive Jesus Christ, who did it all. You can ask the inquirer, “Will you now stop your trying and simply receive Jesus as Saviour?”

**John 1:12-13.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The following verse shows that God does not ask us to try what we can do but trust Jesus and what He has done and will do.

**Acts 16:31.**

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

This next verse shows that we are not to be justified by trying to do, “but freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” on the simple condition of faith.

**Romans 3:23-25.**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

#### ***4. Those who say, "I feel That I am saved."***

"I feel I am going to Heaven,"

Show them from the next verse that it is not a question of what they feel, but what God says, and what God says distinctly in his word is that "He that believeth not on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

#### **John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

One afternoon, I was talking with a lady who, a few weeks before, had lost her only child. At the time of the child's death, she had been deeply interested, but her serious impressions had largely left her. I asked her the question, "Do you not wish to go where your little one has gone?" She replied at once, "I expect to." "What makes you think you will?" I said. She replied, "I feel so. I feel that I will go to heaven when I die." I then asked her if there was anything she could point to in the word of God, which gave her a reason for believing that she was going to heaven when she died. "No," she said, "there is not." Then she turned and questioned me, saying, "Do you expect to go to heaven when you die?" "Yes," I replied, "I know I shall." "How do you know it?" she said. "Have you any word from God for it?" "Yes," I answered and turned to John 3:36. She was thus led to see the difference between a faith that rested upon her feelings and a faith that rested upon the word of God.

The next verses can be used in the following way: you can say, "There was a man in the Bible who felt he was all right but was all wrong. Let me read you about him." Then read about the Pharisee who was so sure that he was all right, but who was all the time an unforgiven sinner; and make the inquirer see how untrustworthy our feelings are and what the ground of assurance is, viz: God's word.

#### **Luke 18:9-14.**

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: **Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

The following verse can also be used as showing that “there is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

**Proverbs 14:12.**

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

***5. Those who say, “I am saved,” while living sinful lives.***

In the case of many forms of sin, a good passage to use is:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10.**

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

In many cases, the following verse will sweep away this false hope.

**1 John 2:29.**

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

This last verse is useful in showing those who are born of God overcome the world and in contrast, the fact that they are living in sin is evidence that they have not been born of God.

**1 John 5:4-5.**

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

# Those Who Lack Assurance, and Back-Sliders.

*I. Those who lack assurance may be divided into two classes.*

## ***1. Those who lack assurance.***

The following will show all who lack assurance may know they have eternal life. Often, when you ask people if they know they are saved, or if they know their sins are forgiven, or if they know they have eternal life, they will reply, “No one can know for sure.” You can say to them, “Yes, the Bible says that all who believe in Jesus Christ can be certain that they have been forgiven of their sins and can know for sure that they have been reconciled to God.” Then show them:

**1 John 5:13.**

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Christ gives to as many as receive Him, power to become the Sons of God.

**John 1:12.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

A good way to use this verse is to ask the inquirer questions regarding it. “What does everyone who receives Him receive power to become?” The inquirer, if he is attentively looking at the verse, will answer, “A son of God.” Then, ask the next question, “Have you received Him?” If he replies “Yes,” then ask him, “What are you then?” It will probably be necessary to go over it several times, but at last, the inquirer will see it and say, “I am a son of God.” The following can be used similarly.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Ask the inquirer, “Who do these verses say has everlasting life?” “He that believeth on the Son.” “Do you believe in the Son?” “What have you then?” In a little while, he will see it and say, “Everlasting life.” Then have him say over and over again, “I have everlasting life,” and have him kneel and thank God for giving him everlasting life. One night, I found a young man in great distress on his knees at the close of the service. I showed him from the Bible how Jesus Christ had borne his sins and asked him if he would accept Christ as his Saviour; he said he would, but he seemed to get no light and went out of the meeting in deep distress. The next night, he was there again,

professing to have accepted Christ but with no assurance that his sins were forgiven. I tried to show him from God's word what God said of those who accepted the Saviour, but the light did not come. Finally, he rose to leave the meeting. I had just shown him to John 3:36 that God said "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." As he turned to leave me, he said, "Will you pray for me?" I said, "Yes." He walked a little way down the aisle, and I called to him and said, "Do you believe I will pray for you?" He turned with a look of astonishment and replied, "Yes, of course." "Why do you think I will pray for you?" I then asked. "Because you said so," he replied. I said, "Isn't God's word as good as mine?" He saw it at once, that while he had been willing to believe my word, he had not been willing to believe God's word, and he received assurance on the spot and knew that he had everlasting life. The following verses can be used similarly.

**John 5:24.**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**1 John 5:12.**

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

The following is very useful in dealing with this class of persons.

**Acts 13:39.**

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Ask the inquirer: "What does this verse say that all who believe are?" "Justified." Then, ask him, "Do you believe?" "What are you then?" It will probably take two or three times going over it before he sees it, and when he answers, "I am justified," tell him to thank God for justifying him and confess Christ, and see to it that he does so. Many inquirers of this class stumble over the fact that they have not witnessed the Holy Spirit. Show them from this next verse that the witness of the word to their acceptance is sufficient and that if they believe not this witness of God in His word, they make Him a liar.

**1 John 5:10.**

¶ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

After we believe the testimony of the word, we are "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

**Ephesians 1:13.**

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

**The natural order in assurance is this:**

1. First, the assurance of our justification rests on the “Word of God.”
2. Second, public confession of Christ, “with the mouth.”
3. Third, the witness of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 10:10.**

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Many wish to invert this order and have the Holy Spirit's witness before they confess Christ with their mouths. From the following verse, we learn that when we confess Christ before men, He confesses us before the Father.

**Matthew 10:32-33.**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

We cannot reasonably expect the witness of the Spirit from the Father until we are confessed before the Father. So, the confession of Christ logically precedes the witness of the Spirit. It is very important to use these texts to make clear what saving faith is because many may say that they believe when they do not, in the sense of these texts, and so get a false assurance and entertain false hopes and never find deliverance. There is a great deal of carelessness in dealing with those who lack assurance. Workers are so anxious to have inquirers come out clearly that they urge them on to assurance when they have no right to have the assurance of salvation as they have not accepted Christ.

The following verses make very clear what believing is — receiving Jesus or committing to Jesus.

**John 1:12.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**2 Timothy 1:12.**

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

The following verse will serve a similar purpose by showing that it “is with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”

**Romans 10:10.**

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

***2. Those who lack assurance because of sin.***

The trouble with those who lack assurance is often that they have some sin or questionable practice that they ought to confess and give up. The following verses are useful passages in dealing with this class of men, for they show that it is when sin is confessed and forsaken and we follow Christ that we receive pardon, light, and assurance.

**John 8:12.**

¶ Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**Isaiah 55:7.**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Proverbs 28:13.**

¶ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**Psalms 32:1-5.**

¶ A Psalm of David, Maschil. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I

acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Often, it is well when one lacks assurance to put the question squarely to him: “Do you know of any sin on which you are holding or anything in your life which your conscience troubles you about?”

## **II. Backsliders.**

*There are two classes of backsliders, and they should be dealt with in different ways.*

Careless backsliders: those who have no great desire.

With such persons, use the following to drive the question right home, “What iniquity have you found in the Lord?”

### **Jeremiah 2:5.**

Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

Show them the base ingratitude and folly of forsaking such a Saviour and Friend. Very likely they have wandered away because of unkind treatment by professed Christians, but hold them right to the point of how the Lord treated them and how they are now treating Him. Use the following and show them what they have forsaken and for what.

### **Jeremiah 2:13.**

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Have them read the verse and ask them, “is not that verse true? When you forsook the Lord did you not forsake the ‘fountain of living waters and turn to ‘broken cisterns that can hold no water?’” Illustrate the text by showing how foolish it would be to turn from a fountain of pure living water to broken cisterns or muddy pools. God has greatly honored this verse in bringing backsliders back to himself. Use the following.

### **Jeremiah 2:19.**

Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.



When they have read it ask them whether they have not found it “an evil thing and bitter” having forsaken the Lord their God. The following can oftentimes be used with effect with an impenitent backslider, showing him the result of his wandering.

**Proverbs 14:14.**

¶ The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

**1 Kings 11:9.**

¶ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

**Luke 15:13-17.**

Not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a faraway country, where he wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to be in want. He joined himself as a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat, and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my fathers have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I have a friend who always uses the following, and often with good results.

**Amos 4:11-12.**

I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

**3. *Backsliders who are sick of their wanderings and sin.***

*...and desire to come back to the Lord.*

These are perhaps as easy a class to deal with as we ever find. The following will show them how ready the Lord is to receive them back and that all he asks of them is that they acknowledge their sin and return to him.

**Jeremiah 3:12-13.**

¶ Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 3:22.**

Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

The following is full of tender invitation to penitent backsliders and also shows the way back to God.

**Hosea 14:1-4.**

¶ O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. ¶ I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

The following set forth God's unfailing love for the backslider and His willingness to receive him back.

**Isaiah 43:22, 24-25.**

¶ But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

**Isaiah 44:20-22.**

He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand? ¶ Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

**Jeremiah 29:11-13.**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

**Deuteronomy 4:28-31.**

And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

**2 Chronicles 7:14.**

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

**1 John 1:9.**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 2:1-2.**

¶ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The following give illustrations of great backsliders who returned to the Lord and how lovingly He received them.

**Mark 16:7.**

But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

**2 Chronicles 15:4.**

But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

**2 Chronicles 33:1-9.**

¶ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

**2 Chronicles 33:12-13.**

And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.

The following show just what steps the backslider must take to come back to the Lord and be restored to his favor:

1. Humble yourself.
2. Confess your sins.
3. Turn from your sin.

**1 John 1:9.**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Jeremiah 3:12-13.**

¶ Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

**2 Chronicles 15:12.**

And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

**2 Chronicles 15:15.**

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

**2 Chronicles 7:14.**

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The following is perhaps the most useful passage of all in dealing with a backslider who wishes to return for it has both the steps which the backslider must take and the kind of reception he will receive.

**Luke 15:11-24.**

¶ And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

When a backslider has returned he should always be given instructions as to how to live so as not to backslide again.

## Professed Skeptics & Infidels.

*There are various classes of skeptics. A different method must be used for each kind of skeptic.*

### *1. Skeptics who are mere triflers.*

With such use the following.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:18.**

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

If a man says the Bible is foolish to him, you can say “Yes, that is just what the Bible itself says.” He will probably be surprised at this reply and then you can show him 1 Corinthians 1:18; “the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.” Then you can say to him, “**The Bible says that it is foolishness to those that perish — and the reason it is foolishness to you is that you are perishing.**” The following can be used similarly.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:14.**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

A worker was one night dealing with a man who said to him when he was trying to persuade him to come to Christ, “all that you are saying is foolishness to me.” The worker quickly replied, “Yes, that is just what the Bible says.” The man looked at him in astonishment and said: “What?” “You said all that I have been saying to you was foolishness to you, and that is just what the Bible says.” The man was more astonished then than ever and the worker turned him to 1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.” The man said, “I never saw that before; I never thought of it in that light before.” The following is very useful in showing the trifler that he is lost and that his skepticism arises from the fact that the “god of this world hath blinded his mind.”

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4.**

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The following is useful in showing the origin of skepticism, “because they received not the love of the truth” and the consequences of skepticism — delusion, and damnation.

**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.**

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The following verses may lead this class of skeptics to do some soul searching, as they become aware of the terrible consequences of unbelief.

**John 8:21.**

¶ Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

**John 8:24.**

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

The following verses expose the origin of skepticism.

**John 5:44.**

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?



**John 3:18-20.**

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

The following is useful in some cases though one needs to be guarded in its use, using it only when it can be done with earnestness and tenderness.

**Psalm 14:1.**

¶ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

The following can also be used with good results

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.**

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

***2. Serious-minded skeptics.***

There is a large class of men and women in our day who are desirous of knowing the truth but who are in an utter fog of skepticism. The following passage is very helpful in dealing with such people.

**John 7:17.**

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

It shows the way out of skepticism to faith. Get the skeptic to act according to the verse. Ask them, 'Will you surrender your will to God and promise to search honestly and earnestly to find out what God's will is, so that you may do it? Will you ask God to show you whether you need a Saviour and whether Jesus is a Divine Saviour, the Son of God? Will you promise that, if God shows you that Jesus is the Son of God, you will accept Him as your Saviour and confess Him before the world?' Ask them to put their promise in writing. If you get them to do this, their skepticism will soon diminish.

### ***3. Those who doubt the existence of God.***

The passages under 1 and 2 can also be used with this class, and generally, it is wise to use them before those given under this heading. There are, however, three passages that are often effective with this specific class of skeptics. Before using this next passage, you can say to the man, “Let me read you from God’s word what he says about those who deny his existence.”

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

#### **Psalm 14:1.**

¶ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Often, it is good to leave the passage to do its work. Sometimes, however, it is wise to dwell a little upon it. Call the man’s attention to the fact that it is “in his heart” that the fool says, “there is no God.” He does not believe there is a God because he does not wish to. You can add that the folly of saying in one’s heart that there is no God is seen in two points: first, there is a God, and it is folly to say there is not one, and second, the doctrine that there is not a God always brings misery and wretchedness. Put it right to the man and ask him if he ever knew a happy atheist. The following are also effective passages.

#### **Psalm 19:1-2.**

¶ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

#### **Romans 1:19-22.**

¶ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

### ***4. Those who doubt that the Bible is the word of God.***

The following is useful in showing that questioning the fact does not alter the fact.

**Romans 3:3,4.**

For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

The Spirit often uses the following to carry to the heart of the skeptic the certainty and immutability of God's word.

**Matthew 24:35.**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

The following verses are useful as giving Christ's testimony that the Old Testament is the Word of God.

**Mark 7:13.**

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

**Matthew 5:18.**

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

**John 10:35.**

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

**Luke 24:27.**

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

**Luke 24:44.**

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

They are especially helpful in dealing with those who say that they accept the authority of Christ but not that of the Old Testament, for in them, Christ sets His seal on the Old Testament Scriptures, and they show conclusively that if we accept His authority, we must also accept that of the Old Testament. Along the same line, the following are useful as containing Christ's endorsement of the New Testament.

**John 14:26.**

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

**John 16:12-13.**

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The following can be used with good effect to address the often-made statement that Paul nowhere claims that his teaching is the word of God.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13.**

¶ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

The following verses can also be used in dealing with this class.

**2 Peter 1:21.**

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**John 8:47.**

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

**Luke 16:30-31.**

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The following verses are very effective in showing the guilt of those who do not believe in God's record. Before using this last passage, you can say, "You doubt, do you, that the Bible is the Word of God? Now let us see what God says about those who believe not His testimony. " Then, turn them to the passage and have them read it.

## **2 John 5-11**

¶ And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. ¶ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¶ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

## ***5. Those who doubt a future existence.***

### **1 Corinthians 15:35-36.**

¶ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

### **1 Corinthians 15:28-29.**

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

### **Daniel 12:2.**

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

## ***6. Those who doubt the doctrine of future punishment.***

The following defines what "death" means when used in the scriptures

**Revelation 21:8.**

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

When the following verses are compared, they show what perdition or destruction means in the scriptures.

**Revelation 17:8.**

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

**Revelation 19:20.**

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

**Revelation 20:10.**

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

The following shows that those who are subjected to the terrible retribution described here are those whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

**Revelation 13:7-8.**

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The following shows that there is destruction for the soul apart from the destruction of the body.

**Matthew 10:28.**

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

The following shows that after one is killed and is, of course, dead, there is a punishment in “hell.”

**Luke 12:5.**

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

The following shows that there is such a thing as eternal sin.

**Mark 3:28-29.**

Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

The following shows the torment of the wicked.

**Luke 16:23-26.**

And in hell he lift up his eyes. being in torments. and seeth Abraham afar off. and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said. Father Abraham. have mercy on me. and send Lazarus. that he may dip the tip of his finger in water. and cool my tongue. for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said. Son. remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things. and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted. and thou art tormented. And beside all this. between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot. neither can they pass to us. that would come from thence.

The following shows that the retribution visited upon the wicked is of so stern a character that it would be better for him upon whom it is visited if he had never been born.

**Mark 14:21.**

The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

The following verses show that the lake of fire is a place where the condemned are turned to ashes; there is no second chance.

**2 Peter 2:4.**

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

**Jude 6.**

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

The following show that while the punishment of transgression of the Mosaic law was death, that sorer punishment awaits those who have “trodden underfoot the Son of God.”

**Hebrews 10:28-29.**

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The following gives further light on the subject.

**Matthew 25:41.**

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The following shows that the wicked go to the same place with the Beast and False Prophet and the Devil, and share the same eternal death sentence.

**Revelation 19:20.**

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

**Revelation 20:10.**

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.



## ***7. Those who doubt the divinity of Christ.***

**a.** The following verses show the same titles being applied to Christ in the New Testament are applied to Jehovah in the Old Testament.

### **Acts 10:36 .**

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

### **1 Corinthians 2:8.**

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

### **Psalms 24:8-10.**

Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

### **Hebrews 1:8.**

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

### **John 20:28.**

And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

### **Romans 9:5.**

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

### **Revelation 1:17.**

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last:**

**Isaiah 44:6.**

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

**b.** In the following verses we find divine offices attributed to Christ.

**Hebrews 1:10.**

And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

**Hebrews 1:3.**

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**c.** Jesus Christ is worshiped as God.

**John 5:22-23.**

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

**Revelation 5:13.**

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

**Hebrews 1:6.**

And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

**Philippians 2:10.**

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**d.** Jesus claimed the same honor as his Father

Either He was Divine or the most blasphemous impostor that ever lived. Drive it home that the one who denies Christ's Divinity puts Him in the place of a blasphemous imposter.

**John 5:22-23.**

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

**Mark 14:61-62.**

But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, **I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

**e.** Those who deny the Divinity of Christ, are liars and Antichrist.

**1 John 2:22-23.**

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

**1 John 5:1.**

¶ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Those who deny the Divinity of Christ, accuse God of being a liar.

**1 John 5:10-12.**

¶ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the

record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**Matthew 3:17.**

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**Matthew 17:5.**

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

The folly, guilt, and punishment of rejecting Christ as the Son of God.

**Hebrews 10:28-29.**

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Those who do not believe in the Divinity of Jesus Christ will die in their sins.

**John 8:24.**

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

We have life through believing that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God.

**John 20:31.**

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Often there is no need to take up specific questions for example about future punishment until the inquirer has first settled the matter of whether he will accept Christ as his Saviour.

## **Those who Complain About Christians.**

Very frequently when we try to persuade men to accept Christ as their Saviour, they reply; "There are too many hypocrites in the church." The following verses (and especially the latter verse), are exceedingly effective in dealing with such.

### **Romans 14:4.**

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

### **Romans 14:12.**

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The following verses are also excellent.

### **Romans 2:1.**

¶ Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

### **Matthew 7:1-5.**

¶ Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

The next verse is useful in showing the objector that he is solely responsible for his relation to Christ and that what others do is none of his affairs.

### **John 21:21-22.**

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

Sometimes the inquirer will complain about the way Christian people have treated him. In such a case turn the attention of the inquirer from how Christian people have treated him to how God has treated him. For this purpose use the following verses.

**Jeremiah 2:5.**

Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

**Isaiah 53:5.**

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

**Romans 5:6-8.**

¶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Then ask him if the fact that Christians have treated him badly is any excuse for his treatment of a Heavenly Father who has treated him so well. One night turning to an aged man I asked him if he was a Christian. He replied that he was not, that he was a backslider. I asked him why he backslid. He replied that Christian people had treated him badly. I opened my Bible and read Jeremiah 2:5, to him, "Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity and are become vain?" I said, "Did you find any iniquity in God? Did God not use you well?" With a good deal of feeling the man admitted that God had not treated him badly and I held him tight to this point of God's treatment of him, and not man's treatment, and his treatment of God. The following verses are also useful in showing the absolute necessity of our forgiving men.

**Matthew 18:23-35.**

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay

thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

**Ephesians 4:30-32.**

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Matthew 6:14-15.**

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## **Those who wish to Put Off a Decision Until Some Other Time.**

### ***1. The several classes who wish to put off a decision.***

One of the largest is composed of those who say “I want to wait,” or “Not tonight,” or “I will think about it,” or “I will come tomorrow night,” or some such thing. Use:

**Isaiah 55:6.**

¶ Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

After the inquirer has read the passage, ask him when he should seek the Lord, and when he answers “While he may be found,” ask him, “when can the Lord may be found?” Then drive it home! Ask him if he is sure that he can find Him tomorrow, if he does not seek Him today. Or you can use:

**Proverbs 29:1.**

¶ He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

It is well after he has read this verse to ask the one with whom you are dealing what becomes of the one who “being often reproved hardeneth his neck” and when he answers “He shall be destroyed,” ask him how he shall be destroyed, and when he answers “Suddenly,” ask him if he is willing to run the risk. Or you can use:

**Matthew 25:10-12.**

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Ask him who it was that went into the marriage? and when he answers “They that were ready” ask him if he is ready. Then ask him what happened after those who were ready went in. Then ask him where “those who were not ready” were. Then put it to him, “Are you willing to be on the outside?” Or you can use:

**Luke 12:19-20.**

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?



Ask the inquirer for how long a time this man thought he had made provision. Then ask him: "If God should call you tonight would you be ready?" Matthew 24:44, is especially effective in dealing with those who say "I am not ready."

**Matthew 24:44.**

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

1 Kings 18:21, can be used with good effect.

**1 Kings 18:21.**

¶ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

An excellent way to use this verse is by asking the person whether he would be willing to wait a year and not have an opportunity under any circumstances, no matter what came up, of accepting Christ. When he answers, "No, I might die within a year," ask him if he would be willing to wait a month. Then bring it down to a week and finally to a day, and ask him if he would like God and the Holy Spirit and all Christians to leave him alone for a day and he does not have an opportunity, under any circumstances of accepting Christ? Almost any thoughtful person will say, "No." Then tell him that if that is the case he had better accept Christ at once. Dr. Chalmers was the first one to use this method and it has been followed by many others with great success.

**Proverbs 27:1.**

¶ Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

**James 4:13-14.**

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

**Job 36:18.**

Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.

**Luke 13:24-28.**

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

**Luke 12:19-20.**

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

**John 8:21.**

¶ Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

**John 12:35.**

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

**John 7:33-34.**

Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. 34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

**2. *“I must do something else first.”***

“I must complete my education first, then I will become a Christian,” “I must establish a business first, then I will become a Christian,” “I must get married first, then I will become a Christian,”

**Seek the kingdom of God first.**

**Matthew 6:33.**

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Matthew 22:2-7.**

**Matthew 22:2-7** The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage. **But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:** And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*. But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

### ***3. Those who say, “I am waiting for God’s time.”***

If one says this, ask him if he will accept Christ in God’s time if you will show him when God’s time is. Then turn to:

**2 Corinthians 6:2.**

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

**Hebrews 3:15.**

While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

### ***4. “I am too young.”***

“I want to wait until I am older.”

This is an all-sufficient answer to such.

**Ecclesiastes 12:1.**

¶ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

The following verses are also good passages to use as they show that youth is the best time to come to Christ and that all must become children, even if they are old before they can enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

**Matthew 19:14.**

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 18:3.**

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

It is oftentimes wise in dealing with persons who wish to put off a decision until some time in the future to use the passages given for “The Indifferent,” until such a deep impression is made of their need of Christ that they will not be willing to postpone accepting Christ. In dealing with those under “1” above, it is best to use only one passage and drive that home by constant repetition. One night I was dealing with a man who was quite interested but who kept saying “I cannot decide tonight.” I quoted:

**Proverbs 29:1.**

¶ He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

To every answer he made I would come back to this passage. I must have repeated it a great many times in the course of the talk until the man was made to feel not only his need of Christ but the danger of delaying and the necessity of a prompt decision. He tried to get away from the passage but I held him to this one point. The passage lingered with him and it was emphasized by the providence of God; for that very night he was assaulted and quite seriously injured, and he came the next night with his head bandaged and accepted Christ. The pounding which he received from his assailant would probably have done him little good if the text of scripture had not been pounded into his mind.

## **The Willful and the Deluded.**

### ***1. The Willful***

There are several varieties of the Willful. There are those for example who say “I do not wish you to talk to me.” In such a case it is usually best to give some pointed passage of scripture and let it talk for itself and then leave the person alone to reflect upon it. The following verses are passages which are good for this purpose.

#### **Romans 6:23.**

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Hebrews 10:28-29.**

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

#### **Hebrews 12:25.**

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

#### **Mark 16:16.**

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

#### **Proverbs 29:1.**

¶ He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

#### **Proverbs 1:24-33.**

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they

despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Then some say “I cannot forgive.” The following verses are good to use as showing that they must forgive or be lost.

**Matthew 18:23-35.**

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

**Matthew 6:15.**

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The following verses will show them how they can forgive.

**Philippians 4:13.**

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**Ezekiel 36:26.**

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

There are a great many people who are kept from Christ by an unforgiving spirit. Some times this difficulty can be removed by getting the person to kneel in prayer and ask God to take away their unforgiving spirit. I once reasoned a long time with an inquirer who was under deep conviction, but was held back from accepting Christ by a hatred in her heart toward some one who had wronged her. She kept insisting that she could not forgive. Finally I said, "let us get down and tell God about this matter." To this she consented and scarcely had we knelt when she burst into a flood of tears, and the difficulty was removed and she accepted Christ immediately. There are those again who say "I love the world too much." The following is the great text to use with this class.

**Mark 8:36.**

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The following will show the absolute necessity that the world be given up.

**Luke 14:33.**

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

The following verses will show the folly of holding on to the world.

**Luke 12:16-20.**

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

**1 John 2:15-17.**

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The following verses will show that the Lord will hold back no good thing from them.

**Psalm 84:11.**

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

**Romans 8:32.**

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Some say “I cannot acknowledge a wrong that I have done.” The following verse will show the wretchedness and woe that is sure to follow unless the wrong is acknowledged.

**Proverbs 28:13.**

¶ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Others will say “I do not want to make a public confession.” The following verses will show that God will accept nothing else.

**Romans 10:10.**

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Matthew 10:32-33.**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

The following verses will show the peril of not making it.

**Mark 8:38.**

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.



**John 12:42-43.**

¶ Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

**Proverbs 29:25.**

¶ The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Some say “I want to have my way.” The following verse will show how much better God’s way is.

**Isaiah 55:8-9.**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The following verse shows the consequences of having our way.

**Proverbs 14:12.**

¶ There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Finally some say “I neither accept Christ nor reject Him.” The following will show that they must do one or the other. This verse has been used to the conviction of a great many.

**Matthew 12:30.**

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

***2. The Deluded.***

***a. Roman Catholics.***

A good way to deal with a Roman Catholic is to show him the necessity of the new birth and what the new birth is.

### **The necessity of the new birth.**

#### **John 3:3.**

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

#### **John 3:5.**

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

#### **John 3:7.**

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

### **What the new birth is:**

#### **Ezekiel 36:25-27.**

¶ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17.**

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

#### **2 Peter 1:4.**

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Many Roman Catholics understand the new birth to mean baptism, but it can be easily shown them that the language used does not fit baptism. Further than this, in 1 Corinthians 4:15, Paul says to the Corinthian Christians he had begotten them again through the gospel.

**1 Corinthians 4:15.**

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

If the new birth meant baptism he must have baptized them, but in 1 Corinthians 1:14, he declares he had not baptized them. The following verses show that a man may be baptized, and yet his heart not be “right in the sight of God” so he has “neither part nor lot in this matter.”

**1 Corinthians 1:14.**

¶ I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

**Acts 8:13.**

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

**Acts 8:21.**

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

**Acts 8:23.**

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

**1 John 2:29.**

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

**1 John 3:9.**

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

**Evidence of the new birth.**

**1 John 3:14-17.**

¶ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down

his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

**1 John 5:1.**

¶ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**1 John 5:4.**

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

**How to be born again.**

**John 1:12.**

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**1 Peter 1:23.**

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**James 1:18.**

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**The necessity of repentance and conversion.**

**Acts 3:19.**

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**What repentance is.**

**Isaiah 55:7.**

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Jonah 3:10.**

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

The believer's privilege to know that he has eternal life.

Roman Catholics almost always lack assurance. They do not know that they are forgiven, but hope to be forgiven some day. If you can show them that we may know that we are forgiven and that we have eternal life, it will awaken in a great many of them a desire for this assurance. The next verse shows that it is the believer's privilege to know.

**1 John 5:13.**

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The following verses are very useful in leading them into this assurance.

**Acts 13:38-39.**

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

**Acts 10:43.**

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**John 3:36.**

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Still another way of dealing with them (but it is not best to use it until you have already made some progress with them) is to show them the advantage of Bible study. Good texts for this purpose are:

**John 5:39.**

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

**1 Peter 2:1-2.**

¶ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

**2 Timothy 3:13-17.**

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**James 1:21-22.**

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

**Psalm 1:1-2.**

¶ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

**Joshua 1:8.**

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Mark 7:7-8.**

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

**Mark 7:13.**

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

**Matthew 22:29.**

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

These texts, excepting the one in 1 Peter 2:1-2, are all practically the same in the “Douay” or Roman Catholic Bible as they are in the Protestant Bible and it is well oftentimes in dealing with a Catholic to use the Catholic Bible. Still another way of dealing with a Roman Catholic is to use the same method that you would in dealing with an impenitent sinner — that is to awaken a sense that he is a sinner and needs Christ. For this purpose use:

**Matthew 22:37-38.**

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

**Galatians 3:10.**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

**Galatians 3:13.**

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**Isaiah 53:6.**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Many people think that there is no use of talking with Roman Catholics, that they cannot be brought to Christ. This is a great mistake. Many of them are longing for something they do not find in the Roman Catholic church, and, if you can show them from the word of God how to find it, they come along very easily and they make very earnest Christians. Do not attack the Roman Catholic church. Give them the truth, and the errors in time will take care of themselves. Often our attacks only expose our ignorance.

There is one point at which we always have the advantage in dealing with a Roman Catholic; that is that there is peace and power in Christianity as we know it that there is not in Christianity as they know it, and they appreciate the difference.

***b. Jews.***

The best way to deal with a Jew is to show him that his own Bible points to Christ. The most helpful passages to use are:

**Isaiah 53:1-12.**

¶ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ¶ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. ¶ Yet



it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Daniel 9:26.**

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

**Zechariah 12:10.**

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

There are also useful passages in the New Testament:

**The whole book of Hebrews.**

**Hebrews 9-10.**

**Hebrews 7:25-28.**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

**The whole Gospel of Matthew.**

A great many Jews today are inquiring into the claims of Jesus of Nazareth, and are open to approach upon this subject. The great difficulty in the way of the Jew coming out as a Christian is the terrific persecution which he must endure if he does. This difficulty can be met by the passages

already given under Dealing With Those Who Are Anxious To Be Saved And Know How, But Who Have Difficulties Section 5. "I will be persecuted if I become a Christian."

### ***c. Spiritualists.***

The following verses are passages to be used with this class.

#### **Leviticus 19:31.**

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

#### **Leviticus 20:6.**

And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

#### **Deuteronomy 18:10-12.**

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

#### **2 Kings 21:1-2.**

¶ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

#### **2 Kings 21:6.**

And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

**1 Chronicles 10:13.**

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;

**Isaiah 8:19-20.**

And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

**1 John 4:1-3.**

¶ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.**

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In dealing with all classes of deluded people it is well to begin by using John 7:17, and bring them to a place where they heartily desire to know the truth.

**John 7:17.**

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

There is no hope of bringing a man out of his delusion, unless he desires to know the truth.

## **Hints and Suggestions.**

### ***1. Deal with your sex and your age.***

There are exceptions to this rule. One should be always looking to the Holy Spirit for his guidance as to whom to approach, and He may lead us to one of the opposite sex, but unless there is clear guidance in the matter, it is quite commonly agreed among those who have had large experience in Christian work that men do, on the whole, most satisfactory work with men, and Women with women. Especially is this true of the young. Many unfortunate complications oftentimes arise when young men try to lead young Women to Christ or vice versa. Of course, an elderly motherly woman may do excellent work with a young man or boy, and an elderly, fatherly man may do good work with a young woman or girl. It is not wise ordinarily for a young and inexperienced person to approach one very much older and mature and wiser than themselves on this subject.

### ***2. Get the person with whom you are dealing alone.***

No one likes to open his heart freely to another on this most personal and sacred of all subjects when there are others present. Many will from pride defend themselves in a false position when several are present, who would fully admit their error or sin or need, if they were alone with you. As a rule it is far better for a single worker to deal with a single unconverted person, than for several workers to deal with a single inquirer or for a single worker to deal with several inquiries at once. If you have several to deal with, take them one by one. Workers often find that when they have made no headway while talking to several at once, by taking individuals off by themselves they soon succeed in leading them one by one to Christ.

### ***3. Let your reliance be wholly in the Spirit and the Word.***

### ***4. Have them read passages themselves from the Bible.***

Much less in merely quoting them, but have the one with whom you are dealing read them himself that the truth may find entrance into the heart through the eye as well as the ear.

### ***5. Use but a single passage of scripture.***

Drive that home and clinch it so that the one with whom you have been dealing cannot forget it, but will hear it ringing in his memory long after you have ceased talking. Dr. Ichabod Spencer once in dealing with a young man who had many difficulties kept continually quoting the passage "now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation." The young man tried to get Dr. Spencer on to something else, but over and over again he rang out the words. The next day the young man returned rejoicing in Christ and thanking the doctor that he had "hammered" him with that text. The words kept ringing in his ears during the night and he could not rest until he had settled the matter by accepting Christ. It is a good thing when a person can point to some definite verse in the word of

God and say “I know on the [Authority](#) of that verse that my sins are forgiven and I am a child of God.” There are times, however when a powerful effect is produced by a piling up of passages along some line until the mind is convinced and the heart conquered.

#### ***6. Always hold to the main point of accepting Christ.***

If he wishes to discuss the claims of various denominations, or the question of baptism, or theories of future punishment or any other question other than the central one of his need of a Saviour and Christ the Saviour he needs; tell him that those questions are proper to take up in their right place and time, but the time to settle them is after he has settled the first and fundamental question of accepting or rejecting Christ. Many a case has been lost by an inexperienced worker allowing himself to be involved in a discussion of some side issue which it is utter folly to discuss with an unregenerated person.

#### ***7. Be courteous.***

Many well-meaning but indiscreet Christians by their rudeness and impertinence repel those whom they would win to Christ. It is quite possible to be at once perfectly frank and perfectly courteous. You can point out to men their awful sin and need without insulting them. Your words may be very searching, while your manner is very gentle and winning. Indeed, the more gentle and winning our manner is, the deeper our words will go, for they will not stir up the opposition of those with whom we deal. Some zealous workers approach those with whom they wish to deal in such a manner that the latter at once assume the defensive and clothe themselves with an armor that it is impossible to penetrate.

#### ***8. Be dead in earnest.***

Only the earnest man can make the unsaved man feel the truth of God’s word. It is well to let the passages that we would use with others first sink into our souls. I know of a very successful worker who for a long time used the one passage, “prepare to meet thy God,” with every one with whom she dealt, but that passage had taken such complete possession of her heart and mind that she used it with tremendous effect. A few passages that have mastered us are better than many passages that we have mastered from some text book.

The reader of this book is advised to ponder, upon his knees, such of the passages suggested in it as he decides to use until he feels their power. We read of Paul that he “ceased not to warn every one night and day, with tears.” (Acts 20:31 1) Genuine earnestness will go farther than any skill learned in a training class or from the study of such a book as this.

**Acts 20:31.**

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

***9. Never lose your temper.***

Some persons are purposely exasperating, but even such may be won, by patience, forbearance and gentleness. They certainly cannot be won if you lose your temper. Nothing delights them more, or gives them more comfort in their sins. The more extremely irritating they are in their words and actions the more impressed they will be if you return insults with kindness. Often the most insufferable person will come back in penitence. One of the most insulting men I ever met afterwards became one of the most patient, persistent and effective of workers.

***10. Never have a heated argument.***

This always comes from the flesh and not from the spirit. It arises from pride and unwillingness to let the other person get the best of you in an argument. Refuse to argue. If the one with whom you are talking has mistaken notions that must be removed before he can be led to Christ quietly and pleasantly show him their error. If the error is not essential refuse to discuss it and hold the person to the main question.

**Galatians 5:20.**

Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

**Galatians 5:22-23.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

***11. Never interrupt any one dealing with a soul.***

You may think he is not doing it wisely, but if you can do it any better, bide your time and you will have the opportunity. Many an unskilled worker has had some one at the very point of decision when some meddler has broken in and upset the whole work. On the other hand, do not let others, if you can help it, interrupt you. Just a little word plainly but courteously spoken will usually prevent it.

### **12. Don't be in a hurry.**

*One of the great faults of Christian work today is haste.*

We are too anxious for immediate results and so do superficial work. It is very noticeable how many of those with whom Christ dealt came out slowly. Nicodemus, Joseph, Peter and even Paul—though the final step in his case seems very sudden—are cases in point. It was three days even after the personal appearance of Jesus to Paul on the way to Damascus before the latter came out into the light and openly confessed Christ. (Acts 22:16 4) One man with whom slow but thorough work has been done, and who at last has been brought out clearly for Christ, is better than a dozen with whom hasty work has been done, who think they have accepted Christ when in reality they have not. It is often a wise policy to plant a truth in a man's heart and leave it to work. The seed on rocky ground springs up quickly but withers as quickly.

**Acts 22:16.**

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

### **13. Get the person on his knees there before God.**

*Whenever it is possible and wise,*

It is wonderful how many difficulties disappear in prayer, and how readily stubborn people yield when they are brought into the very presence of God himself. I remember talking with a young woman, in an inquiry room, for perhaps two hours and making no apparent headway; but, when at last we knelt in prayer, in less than five minutes she was rejoicing in her Saviour.

### **14. Whenever you seem to fail in any given case**

*Go home and pray over it and study it to see why you failed.*

If you have been at a loss as to what scripture to use, study that portion of this book that describes the different classes we meet and how to deal with them and see where this case belongs and how you ought to have treated it. Then go back if you can and try again. In any case you will be better prepared next time. The greatest success in this work comes through many apparent defeats. It will be well to frequently study these hints and suggestions to see if your failures come through neglect of them.

### **15. How To Succeed In The Christian Life.**

It would be well to give these instructions in some permanent form to the one whom you have led to Christ.

## **Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

There is one condition of success in bringing men to Christ that is of such cardinal importance, and so little understood, that it demands a separate chapter. I refer to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the following verses we have three expressions; “baptized with the Holy Spirit,” “endured with power from on high” and “filled with the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 1:5.**

For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

**Luke 24:49.**

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued with power from on high.**

**Acts 1:8.**

But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

**Acts 2:4.**

And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

By a careful comparison of these and related passages we will find that these various expressions refer to one and the same experience. This experience we shall see as we proceed in the study of this subject is an absolutely necessary condition of acceptable and effective service for Christ.



### ***1. What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?***

1. It is a definite and distinct operation of the Holy Spirit of which one may know whether it has been wrought in him or not. This is evident from the fact that Jesus bade His disciples tarry in Jerusalem until they had received this endowment, and when they were ready to begin their witnessing.

**Luke 24:49.**

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

**Acts 1:8.**

But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### ***2. It is an operation of The Holy Spirit ...***

...Separate from His regenerating work.

This appears from the following verse, where the disciples are told “ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.”

**Acts 1:5.**

For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

But from the following verses we learn that the disciples were already regenerated.

**John 15:3.**

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

**John 13:10.**

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

It appears also from the following verse where we are told of certain who had already believed and were baptized with water, but upon whom the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen.

**Acts 8:15-16.**

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

The same thing is shown by Acts 19:1-6, where we are told of certain who were disciples, but who had not received the Holy Spirit since they believed.

**Acts 19:1-6.**

¶ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

***Every believer has the Holy Spirit.***

**Romans 8:9.**

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

**Acts 8:12-16.**

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¶ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

**Acts 19:1-2.**

¶ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

We shall see very soon that every believer may have the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

***3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit, always connected with testimony or service***

**1 Corinthians 12:4-13.**

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. ¶ For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Acts 1:5-8 .**

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ¶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, *It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**Luke 24:49.**

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

**Acts 2:4,8.**

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 9 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

**Acts 4:31.**

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 7:55.**

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

**Acts 9:17,20.**

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

**Acts 10:45-46.**

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

**Acts 19:6.**

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit has no direct reference to cleansing from sin. Some expect that if they receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the old carnal nature will be eradicated. There is not a line of scripture to support this position.

(a.)

**1 Corinthians 12:4-13.**

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all

in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. ¶ For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

The results of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit are not precisely the same in all persons. One receives the gift of an evangelist, another of a teacher, another of government, another of a helper, another of a mother.

**1 Corinthians 12:28-31.**

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

**Ephesians 4:8,11.**

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

(b.)

**1 Corinthians 12:7,11.**

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

There will be some gift in every case. Not the same gift but some gift, of an evangelist, or a pastor, or of a teacher or some other.

(c.)

**1 Corinthians 12:11.**

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The Holy Spirit decides what gift he will impart to each individual. It is not for us to select some place of service and then ask the Holy Spirit to qualify us for that service.

**Acts 13:2.**

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

He is absolutely sovereign and our rightful position is that of absolute and unconditional surrender to Him. This is where many fail of a blessing and meet with disappointment.

(d.)

**Acts 1:5,8.**

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit always imparts boldness in testimony and service.

**Acts 4:29-31.**

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Contrast the boldness of Peter in Acts with the cowardness of Peter in Mark.

**Acts 4:8-12.**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made

whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**Mark 14:66-72.**

¶ And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, is the Spirit of God falling upon the believer, taking possession of his faculties, imparting to him gifts not naturally his own, but which qualify him for the service to which God has called him.

***1. The necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit ...***

...As a preparation for Christian work.

**Luke 24:49.**

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Jesus bade the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until they were “endued with power from on high.” These men had been appointed to be witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

**Luke 24:45-48.**

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

**Acts 1:22.**

Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

**Acts 10:39-41.**

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

The apostles had been eye witnesses of his miracles, death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

The apostles needed the Baptism of the Holy Spirit before entering upon their ministry.

Jesus Himself waited for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit before entering upon His ministry.

**Acts 10:38.**

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

**Luke 3:22.**

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

**Luke 4:1, 14.**

¶ And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ¶ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

This baptism is an absolutely essential preparation for Christian work.

***2. It is the privilege of every believer...***

...To be baptized with the Holy Spirit.



**Acts 2:39.**

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

This promise is for all in all ages of the church's history whom God shall call unto him, i. e. for every believer.

**Acts 1:4.**

**Acts 1:4** And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, *but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

**Acts 2:16,33.**

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

If we do not have this baptism it is our own fault.

***3. How can we obtain the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?***

We now come to the practical question: how can we obtain this Baptism of the Holy Spirit which is such an absolute necessity in our work for Christ? Fortunately the answer to this question is very plainly stated in the Bible.

***(1) "Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"***

**Acts 2:38.**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**The first step toward obtaining this Baptism is repentance.** Repentance means "a change of mind," a change of mind about sin, about God, and in this case especially (as the context shows) a change of mind about Christ. A real change of mind such as leads to action—to our turning away from all sin, our turning to God, our turning away from rejecting Jesus Christ to accepting Him.

The second step is the confession of our renunciation of sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ in God's appointed way by baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit in at

least one instance (Acts 10:44-48) preceded the baptism with water but this was manifestly an exceptional case.

**Acts 10:44-48.**

¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**(2) “The Holy Spirit whom God hath given...**

...to them that obey him.”

**Acts 5:32.**

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

The condition of the gift of the Holy Ghost here stated is that we “obey Him.” Obedience means more than the mere performance of some of the things that God bids us do. It means the entire surrender of our wills, ourselves and all we have, to Him.

Obedience means also the doing in all matters great and small, the will of God as revealed in His Word or by His Spirit. Any refusal to do what God bids us do, any conscious doing of what he bids us not do, even in very little matters, is sufficient to shut us out of this blessing. If there is anything no matter how little, that comes up before us to trouble us as we pray over this matter, we should set it right with God at once.

**(3.) “How much more shall your Heavenly Father give ...**

*...the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.”*

**Luke 11:13.**

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

(a.) There must be a definite prayer for this Baptism.

It is often said that the Holy Spirit is already here and that every believer has the Spirit and so we ought not to pray for the Holy Spirit. This argument overlooks the distinction between having the Holy Spirit and having this specific operation of the Holy Spirit. It also contradicts the plain teaching of God's word that He gives "the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." It is furthermore shown to be fallacious by the fact that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts was constantly given in connection with and in answer to prayer.

**Acts 1:14.**

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

**Acts 2:1-4.**

¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**Acts 4:31.**

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 8:15,17.**

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

(b.) Prayer implies desire.

There is no real prayer for the Baptism of the Spirit unless there is a deep desire for it. As long as a man thinks he can get along somehow without this blessing, he is not likely to get it; but when a man reaches the place where he feels he must have this no matter what it costs, he is far on the way toward receiving it. Many a minister of the gospel and other worker has been brought to a place where he has felt he could not go on with his ministry without this gift and then the gift has soon followed and the character of his work has been entirely transformed.

(c.) The prayer to be effectual must be in faith.

**Mark 11:24.**

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

James says in regard to the prayer for wisdom:

**James 1:6-7.**

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

The same principle, of course, holds in regard to the prayer for the Holy Spirit. It is at this very point that many miss the blessing. How to approach God in faith is clearly taught by:

**1 John 5:14-15.**

¶ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

When we ask Him for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we know that we have asked something according to His will for it is definitely promised in His word. Therefore we know that “He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us we know that we have the petition” which we have asked of him. As soon then as I am sure I have met the conditions stated above of the gift of the Holy Spirit, and asked it of God I have a right to count this blessing mine—the prayer is heard and I have the petition I asked of him—and get up and enter into my work assured that in my work will be seen the Spirit’s power. “But,” some one will say, “shall we expect no manifestations?” Yes, but where? In service. When I know on the [Authority](#) of God’s word that my prayer is heard, I have the right to enter upon any service to which He calls me and confidently expect the manifestation of the Spirit’s power in that service. It is a mistake to wait or look for, as so many do, the manifestation in electric shocks or peculiar emotional experiences. They may and often do accompany the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But the Bible clearly teaches us in the following verses that the place to look for manifestations, is in service and the most important, reliable and scriptural manifestations are found in our work.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11.**

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

“Must we not wait,” it may be asked, “until we know that we have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?” Most assuredly, but how are we to know? The same way in which we know we are saved, by the testimony of God’s word. When I know I have met the conditions and have asked this gift which is “according to his will” I know by God’s word that my prayer is heard, and that I have the petition I desired of him.

**1 John 5:14-15.**

¶ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

I have a right to arise with no other evidence than the all-sufficient evidence of God’s word, and enter into the service to which God calls me. “Did not the early disciples wait ten days?” it may again be asked. Yes, and the reason why is clearly given in:

**Acts 2:1.**

¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

In the O. T. types the day of Pentecost had been appointed as the day in God's economy for the first giving of the Holy Spirit and the offering of the first-fruits (the church) and so the Holy Spirit could not be given until that day.

**Leviticus 23:9-17.**

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ¶ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

But after the Spirit was once given we find no protracted period of waiting on the part of those who sought this blessing.

**Acts 4:31.**

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 8:15,17.**

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 9:17,20.**

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

**Acts 19:6.**

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Men are obliged to wait today, but it is only because they have not met the conditions, or do not believe and claim the blessing simply on the Word of God. The moment we meet the conditions and claim the blessing it is ours.

**Mark 11:24.**

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Any child of God may lay down this book, meet the conditions, ask the blessing, claim it and have it. In a Students' Summer School at Lake Geneva after a talk by F. B. Meyer on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, a student remained to talk with me. He said he had heard of this before and had been seeking it for months but could not get it. I found his will was not surrendered, but that was soon settled. Then I said, "Let us kneel down and ask God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit." He did so. Was that the petition "according to his will?" I asked. "Yes." "Was the prayer heard?" After some hesitation, "It must have been." "Have you what you asked of Him?" "I don't feel it." I read from the Bible that lay open before us:

**1 John 5:15.**

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

"Was the prayer heard?" "Yes." "Have you what you asked?" "I must have; for God says so." We arose and soon separated. Going back to the school in a few days I met the young man again. His

face was now all aglow and he knew he had received what at first he took upon the bare word of God.

#### ***4. The Repetition of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.***

One thing more needs to be said before we leave this subject. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience that needs frequent repeating. This appears from a comparison of Acts 2:4 — where Peter with others was filled with the Holy Spirit — with Acts 4:8 — where Peter was filled again, — and with Acts 4:31 where Peter with others was filled yet again. A new filling is needed and should be sought for each new emergency of Christian service.

##### **Acts 2:4.**

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

##### **Acts 4:8.**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

##### **Acts 4:31.**

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

There are many who once knew experimentally what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit meant who are trying to work to-day in the power of that old experience and are working without God. They need and must have a new Baptism before God can use them.



## **How to Succeed in the Christian Life.**

The following are points that should be always insisted upon. It would be well to give these instructions in some permanent form to the one whom you have led to Christ.

### ***(a.) Confess Christ with the mouth before men*** *every opportunity you get.*

#### **Romans 10:9-10.**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

#### **Matthew 10:32-33**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

### ***(b.) Be baptized and partake regularly of the Lord's supper.***

#### **Acts 2:38.**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

#### **Acts 2:42.**

¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### **Luke 22:19.**

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:24-26.**

And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had

supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

***(c.) Study the Word of God daily.***

**1 Peter 2:2.**

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

**Acts 20:32.**

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**2 Timothy 3:13-17.**

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Acts 17:11.**

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

***(d.) Pray daily.***

Often and in every time of temptation.

**Luke 11:9-13.**

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**Luke 22:40.**

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17.**

Pray without ceasing.

***(e.) Put away out of your life every sin.***

Even the smallest, and everything you have doubts about, and obey every word of Christ

**1 John 1:6-7.**

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**Romans 14:23.**

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

***(f.) Seek the society of Christians.***

**Ephesians 4:12-16.**

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**Acts 2:42.**

¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Acts 2:47.**

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Hebrews 10:24-25.**

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**Matthew 25:14-29.**

¶ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

***(h.) When you fall into sin.***

Don't be discouraged, but confess it at once, believe it is forgiven because God says so and get up and go on.

**1 John 1:9.**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Philippians 3:13-14.**

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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